

## The MASTER-II Network of Robotic Optical Telescopes. First Results

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**Abstract**—The main stages in the creation of the Russian segment of the MASTER network of robotic telescopes is described. This network is designed for studies of the prompt optical emission of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs; optical emission synchronous with the gamma-ray radiation) and surveys of the sky aimed at discovering uncataloged objects and photometric studies for various programs. The first results obtained by the network, during its construction and immediately after its completion in December 2010, are presented. Eighty-nine alert pointings at GRBs (in most cases, being the first ground telescopes to point at the GRBs) were made from September 2006 through July 2011. The MASTER network holds first place in the world in terms of the total number of first pointings, and currently more than half of first pointings at GRBs by ground telescopes are made by the MASTER network. Photometric light curves of GRB 091020, GRB 091127, GRB 100901A, GRB 100906A, GRB 10925A, GRB 110106A, GRB 110422A, and GRB 110530A are presented. It is especially important that prompt emission was observed for GRB 100901A and GRB 100906A, and that GRB 091127, GRB 110422A, and GRB 110106A were observed from the first seconds in two polarizations. Very-wide-field cameras carried out synchronous observations of the prompt emission of GRB 081102, GRB 081130B, GRB 090305B, GRB 090320B, GRB 090328, and GRB 090424. Discoveries of Type Ia supernovae are ongoing (among them the brightest supernova in 2009): 2008gy, 2009nr, 2010V, and others. In all, photometry of 387 supernovae has been carried out, 43 of which were either discovered or first observed with MASTER telescopes; more than half of these are Type Ia supernovae. Photometric studies of the open clusters NGC 7129 and NGC 7142 have been conducted, leading to the discovery of 38 variable stars. Sixty-nine optical transients have been discovered.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The first Russian robotic MASTER telescope, located near Moscow, was designed in 2002–2006 at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute of Lomonosov Moscow State University (SAI) [1, 2]. Over several

years, the main principles for constructing an automated photometric system capable of addressing a wide range of tasks was developed on the basis of this instrument. First and foremost, unique software for the real-time reduction of large-format CCD images was developed.

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The development of a network of robotic tele-

scopes proceeded in 2008–2010 using the appreciably modernized MASTER-II systems installed near Blagoveshchensk, Irkutsk (Tunka village), Ekaterinburg, and Kislovodsk. The Russian segment of the network became fully operational in December 2010.

The MASTER-II robotic telescope design was developed at the SAI [2], and the Public Limited Company «Moskovskoe Obedinenie “Optika”» took over the production of these systems. Currently, there are no other systems similar to the network of optical, broadband MASTER telescopes in Russia, and the main characteristics of the MASTER network (field of view, limiting magnitude, bandwidth, synchronous photometry, polarization-sensitive photometry, pointing speed) exceed other such modern systems worldwide (ROTSE-III [3], TAROT [4], PROMPT [5], BOOTES [6]).

The MASTER-II broadband telescopes include a two-tube aperture system with a total field of view of eight square degrees, equipped with a 4000 pixel  $\times$  4000 pixel CCD camera with a scale of 1.85"/pixel, a universal photometer with *B*, *V*, *R*, and *I* filters realizing the Johnson–Cousins system, and polarizer filters.<sup>1</sup> Both of the optical tubes are installed on a high-speed mount with position feedback, which does not require additional guide instruments for exposures not exceeding three to ten minutes. The setup also has an additional degree of freedom—the variable angle between the optical axes of the two tubes. This makes it possible to double the field of view during survey observations simply by making separations in the tubes, or to conduct synchronous multi-color photometry with parallel-shifted tubes. The survey speed provided by a single MASTER-II system is 128 square degrees per hour with a limiting magnitude to 20<sup>m</sup> on dark (moonless) nights.

The MASTER-II system is able to receive alerts sent through the GCN network, point at a set of coordinates provided by space gamma-ray observatories, and carry out synchronous multi-color and polarimetric observations of the prompt optical emission of GRBs.

Each system in the network is able to operate in autonomously, and also to interact with other systems in the network.

The structure of the network and the instruments and algorithms used in the network are described in detail in [2].

<sup>1</sup> Broadband polarizers manufactured using linear conducting nanostructure technology are used [2, 7].

## 2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASTER NETWORK IN 2008–2010

The MASTER-II systems were purchased by Moscow State University (the Caucasian Mountain Observatory of the SAI) and Ural Federal University (Kourov Observatory) in 2008. The reconstruction of the towers intended for the new telescopes was carried out by workman employed by the observatories. The first frames at the Caucasian Mountain Observatory were obtained at the beginning of 2009, and observations at the Kourov Observatory began four months later.

Construction of the MASTER observatories near Irkutsk (at the test site of the Institute of Applied Physics of Irkutsk State University in the Tunkin Valley) and Blagoveshchensk (on the territory of a former latitude station transformed into a botanical garden of the Far East Section of the Russian Academy of Sciences) began in July 2009. The establishment of network telescopes in these two far-eastern locations increases the interval of continuous sky monitoring coverage by five to six hours. Construction was complete by November 15, 2009, and test observations at the new locations were begun using test telescopes. All sites were equipped with 40-cm Hamilton-system telescopes starting in December 2010. Since that time, this first Russian robotic-telescope network has encompassed six time zones (Fig. 1 in the color insert).

The sets of equipment used at the different observatories in the network differ only slightly. The system installed at the observatory of the Ural Federal University does not include a very-wide-field (VWF) camera for synchronous observations of GRBs.

### 2.1. Checkout of the Systems

The first images obtained on these telescopes demonstrated the excellent quality of the optics used, however, they were not able to realize the full potential of the system due to factors that were not taken into account in their construction and software. Tests revealed the following main problems:

- (1) appreciable non-parfocality of the filters, a temperature drift of the focus, and non-optimal adjustment of the optical system, leading to appreciable degradation of the image quality;
- (2) an error in the design of the photometers, leading to the appearance of glare in the images and additional brightening of the field of view due to the sky background;
- (3) insufficient rigidity of the units fixing the optical tubes, giving rise to shifts in the positions of stars in the focal plane during observations;



**Fig. 1.** The MASTER robotized optical network (January 2010). The broadband MASTER-II robotic telescopes and MASTER-VWF very-wide-field cameras are located at sites operated by Moscow State University (near Moscow and Kislovodsk), Ural Federal University (near Ekaterinburg), Irkutsk State University (in the Tunkin Valley), and Blagoveshchensk State Pedagogical University (Blagoveshchensk). The numbers show the mean number of clear nights in a year.

(4) a deficiency in the structure of the AstroHaven shelter, which required additional modification to adapt it to severe climatic conditions;

(5) a deficiency in the control interface of the telescopes, making it difficult to conduct observations according to arbitrary programs.

During the use of the telescopes, glare from bright stars located at the edge of the field of view was discovered in the images. This fault was corrected by installing light-shielding diaphragms in the telescope photometers. After additional adjustment of the optical system, it was possible to achieve a full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the stellar images of 1.8–2.4 pixels ( $3''$ – $5''$ ) over the entire field of view.

To eliminate dofocusing caused by the non-parfocality of the filters, changes were made to the control software of the system to provide automatic focus correction when the filters are turned on. The algorithm for the automatic focusing was also improved. Changes were made to the mechanical part of the focusing unit in order to eliminate backlash. All these measures made it possible to achieve an acceptable image quality for observations in the

automated regime. The FWHM of stellar images for automated surveys rarely exceeds 2.5–3 pixels.

Changes were also made to the structure of the units fixing the telescope tubes to the mount, in order to enhance their rigidity. A new construction for the telescope dome was developed, based on experience with AstroHaven fiberglass shelters. The new shelters are used at the MASTER observatories near Blagoveshchensk and Irkutsk.

The first version of the telescope control software was tested. This software requires a fine and fairly long adjustment to adapt it to specific observing programs. Moreover, this adjustment depends on many parameters, such as the weather conditions, phase of the Moon (sky background), filter in which the observations are carried out, etc. Work on improving this software is ongoing. The main difficulty is the requirement that the observatories be fully automated, which, in turn, requires descriptions of a large number of possible situations, which are usually processed by an observer. Many difficulties cannot be predicted beforehand, and long experience with use of the system is required to improve this situation.

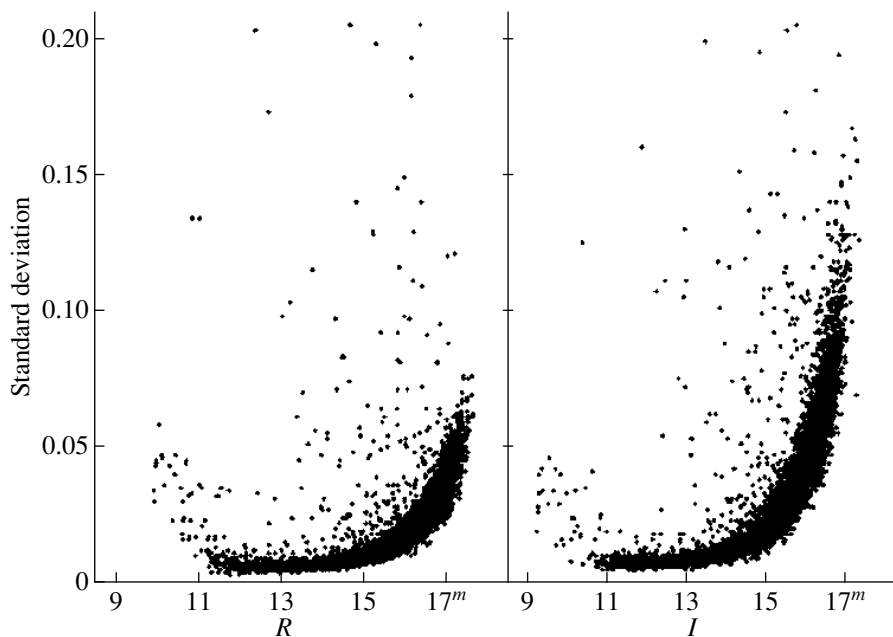


Fig. 2. Precision of the photometry.

Currently, the maximum period of fully automated operation of the system can reach three to four weeks.

### 2.2. Analysis of Photometric and Astrometric Properties of the MASTER-II System

Data on the precision of the photometry carried out with the MASTER telescopes were obtained using observations of the cluster NGC 188, which had been well studied earlier [8], with the Ural MASTER telescope. Frames with exposures of 120 s were obtained

in the  $I$ ,  $R$ , and  $B$  filters. Typical observing conditions for the Kourov Observatory correspond to a FWHM for stellar images of about three pixels, light haze, and weak light pollution. Photometry of stars in the cluster field was carried out using the IRAF/apphot package [9]. Figure 2 presents the distribution of the standard deviation and the brightness variations as a function of the magnitude for 30 frames in the  $R$  and  $I$  filters. The maximum photometric precision of  $0.004^m$  has been achieved for observations of transiting exoplanets with the Ural and Tunka MASTER telescopes.

Appreciable non-linearity of the CCD detector at signal levels of more than 40 000 analog-to-digital units (ADUs) per pixel was discovered. For exposures of 180 s, typical for surveys, this corresponds to a  $11.5^m$  star in the  $V$  filter.

The threshold for automatic detection of objects at the  $3\sigma$  level during surveys was estimated from the best selected frames. This was  $20^m$  for the  $B$ ,  $V$ , and  $R$  filters and  $19.2^m$  for the  $I$  filter at the Kislovodsk station. The threshold was  $0.3^m$  better for the Tunka station, and  $0.7^m$ – $0.5^m$  worse for the Blagoveshchensk and Kourov stations, due to the appreciable sky background at these last two sites.

The precision of astrometric measurements was determined via an analysis of O–C diagrams constructed for the equatorial coordinates of stars as a function of their position in the frame, derived using the Eastern tube of the Ural MASTER-II telescope. The equatorial coordinates of the stars were calculated using the Izmccd package [10], taking into

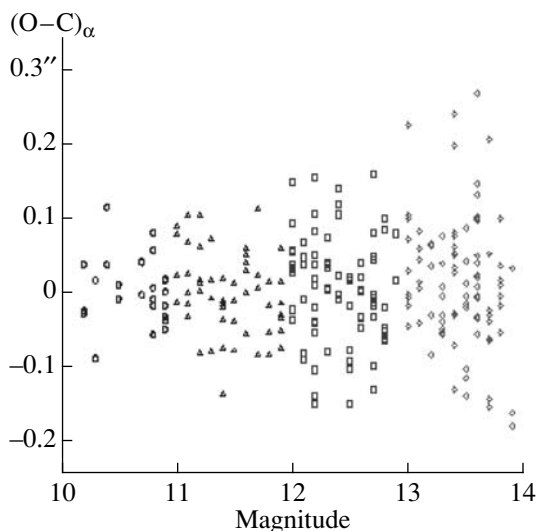
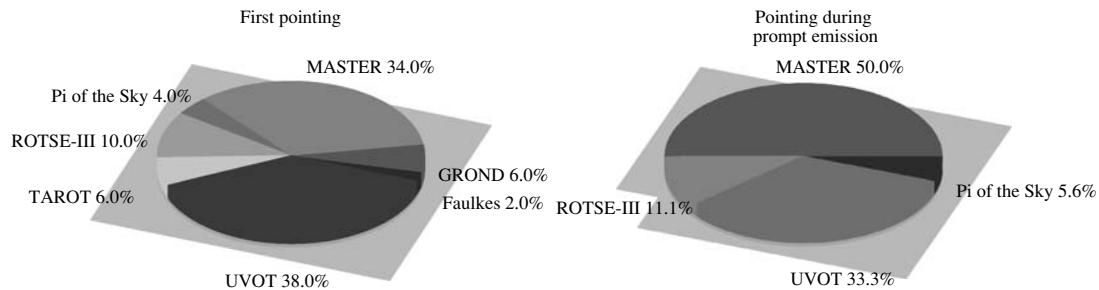


Fig. 3. Dependence of the O–C values for the right ascension of a star on the star's magnitude.



**Fig. 4.** Left: relative contributions of observatories to first pointings at GRBs. A time interval of a about year following the introduction of all telescopes in the MASTER network into operation, from September 2010 through June 2011, was analyzed using data from GCN circulars. Right: relative contributions of observatories to first pointings at GRBs at times of prompt emission. The data used to construct this diagram are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

account differential refraction and using a quadratic reduction model. The sample volume for this study was about 100 stars.

The maximum absolute O–C value was about  $0.2''$  at the edge of the frame, and the distribution of O–C values as a function of position in the frame corresponds to that expected for random errors.

Figure 3 presents the O–C dependence for the right ascension as a function of the stellar brightness. The UCAC-II [11] star catalog, which has coordinate errors less than  $0.02''$ , was used for this purpose.

### 3. OBSERVATIONS

Observations on the MASTER telescopes are conducted in a completely automated regime. The required calibration exposures (flat fields, dark frames) are taken during morning and evening twilight, and the process of focusing and observing begins after sunset, when the sun is more than  $9^\circ$  below the horizon. The observations can be conducted in two modes: alert and survey. In the alert mode, an exposure is taken at a set of GRB coordinates received from the GCN center, in both tubes and mostly using polarizers. In the survey regime, the telescope takes separate exposures in the two tubes to provide maximum sky coverage, and the coordinates of a new area to be surveyed are chosen based on the criterion that there be a maximum number of galaxies in the field of view (for more detail, see [2]). The data are reduced in parallel with the observations in a real-time regime, with the aim of obtaining photometric and astrometric ties for all objects in a frame and carrying out searches for various types of optical transients. The principle characteristics of the data reduction are described in [2].

In this section, we present the results of observations of various types of transient phenomena with the MASTER telescopes.

#### 3.1. Observations of GRBs

The main scientific task of the MASTER network of robotic telescopes was initially and remains observations of GRBs. In this section, we present a detailed history of GRB observations with our telescopes between September 2006 and February 2012. Earlier observational results have been published, for example, in [1, 12], and analyzed theoretically in [13–15]. Results obtained using the VWF cameras are described in [16]. In all, 89 observations of GRBs were carried out in this period. Optical emission was detected in eight cases, for GRB 091020, GRB 091127, GRB 100901A, GRB 100906A, GRB 100925A, GRB 110106A, GRB 110422A, GRB 110530A, and GRB 110801A. We will consider each of these GRBs in more detail. Table 1 presents the collected results for all the GRBs in chronological order, with important points in the development of the network indicated. This table clearly shows that significant results began to appear with the introduction of the Kislovodsk and Ural MASTER-II telescopes (two detections of optical emission and the first polarization observations). After the addition of the telescopes in Tunka and Blagoveshchensk, the network moved into first place in the world in terms of first pointings and first detections of prompt GRB emission; i.e., optical detections made before the GRB had ended (Tables 2 and 3, Fig. 4).

The most significant GRBs are considered in more detail below.

**3.1.1. GRB 091020.** Observations of GRB 091020 were carried out on the Kislovodsk MASTER-II telescope (SAI). Due to technical problems, the pointing was achieved only 3422 s after registration of the burst [135]. We detected a weak optical afterglow ( $\sim 17.5^m$ ). The first seven images were obtained in the *R* filter. Subsequently, an additional 130 frames were obtained with the polarizers, with exposures of 180 s [55]. The frames obtained with each of the polarizers were summed.

**Table 1.** Observations of GRBs with the MASTER network from September 2006–June 2011. The columns give (1) the name of the GRB; (2) the instrument on which the observations were carried out, I (VWF is the very-wide-field camera, VF is a MASTER-II telescope); (3), (4) the times from the GRB alert  $\delta T_a$  and from the trigger sent by a gamma-ray observatory  $\delta T_t$  (essentially the beginning of the GRB) to the beginning of the first MASTER optical observation, in seconds (sync denotes that the GRB was observed synchronously, i.e., continuously before, during, and after the GRB; prompt denotes that the optical emission was observed simultaneously with the gamma-ray emission); (5), (6) flags indicating the registration of optical emission O and the acquisition of polarization observations P of the GRB; (7) the GCN-circular number in which the results were published; (8) the site in the MASTER network where observations were carried out (K—Kislovodsk, M—Moscow, I—Irkutsk, U—Ural, B—Blagoveshchensk, T—Tunka); (9) the filter [C—white light (clear)], optical limit for the first frame, and exposure time in parantheses. An asterisk denotes GRBs registered by the FERMI/GBM with coordinate errors that are substantial and poorly known (for which the coordinate uncertainty can exceed the field of view of the VWF camera)

| GRB  | I   | $\delta T_a$ | $\delta T_t$ | O   | P   | GCN  | Site | Optical limiting magnitude |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-----|-----|--|------|----------------------------|
| Only MASTER-I in Moscow and the VWF camera in Kislovodsk |     |              |              |     |     |  |      |                            |
| GRB 060929   | VWF | 39           | 42           |     |     | 5657 [17]  | K    | R 12.8 (100 s)             |
| GRB 061002   | VWF |              | 97           |     |     | 5677 [18]  | K    | R 13.0 (100 s)             |
| GRB 061213   | VWF |              | 303          |     |     | 5913 [19], 5914 [20], 5915 [21]                          | K    | R 11.4 (50 s)              |
| GRB 070219   | VWF | 15           | 76           |     |     | 6113 [22]  | K    | R 13.5 (420 s)             |
| GRB 070223   | VWF | 1            | 496          |     |     | 6131 [23]  | K    | R 13.0 (180 s)             |
| GRB 070224   | VF  | 51           | 126          |     |     | 6138 [24], 6139 [25], 6140 [26]                          | M    | C 16.2 (30 s)              |
| GRB 070810   | VF  |              | 125          |     |     | 6750 [27], 6752 [28]                                     | M    | C 14.8 (30 s)              |
| GRB 071122   | VF  | 69           | 151          |     |     | 7129 [29]  | M    | C 16.0 (30 s)              |
| GRB 080205   | VF  |              | 8 h          |     |     | 7261 [30]  | M    | C 20.0 (3000 s)            |
| GRB 080319D  | VWF | 92           | 708          |     |     | 7454 [31], 7455 [32]                                     | K    | R 11.5 (5 s)               |
| GRB 080605   | VWF | 12           | 46           |     |     | 7836 [33]  | K    | R 11.5 (100 s)             |
| Start of the Irkutsk MASTER-VWF camera                   |     |              |              |     |     |  |      |                            |
| GRB 080822B  | VF  |              | 1123         |     |     | 8123 [34]  | M    | C 18.8 (750 s)             |
| GRB 081102   | VWF | sync         | sync         |     |     | 8464 [35], 8471 [36], 8516 [37]                          | K    | R 11.1 (5 s)               |
| GRB 081110   | VF  |              | 7 h          |     |     | 8518 [38]  | M    | C 19.0 (2670 s)            |
| GRB 081130*  | VWF | sync         | sync         |     |     | 8585 [39]  | K    | R 11.0 (5 s)               |
| GRB 081130B*   | VWF | sync         | sync         |     |     | 8597 [40]  | K    | R 11.0 (5 s)               |
| GRB 081215A*   | VWF | sync         | sync         |     |     | 8670 [41], 8671 [42], 8672 [43],<br>8673 [44], 8674 [45] | K    | R 11.0 (5 s)               |
| Start of the Kislovodsk MASTER-II in test mode*          |     |              |              |     |     |  |      |                            |
| GRB 090305B*   | VWF | sync         | prompt       |     |     | 9004 [46]  | K, I | R 9.5 (1 s)                |
| GRB 090320B*   | VWF | sync         | prompt       |     |     | 9038 [47]  | K, I | R 11.0 (60 s)              |
| GRB 090328B*   | VWF | sync         | prompt       |     |     | 9065 [48]  | K, I | R 9.1 (1 s)                |
| Start of Ural MASTER-II                                  |     |              |              |     |     |  |      |                            |
| GRB 090408B  | WF  |              | 1.5 h        |     |     | 9111 [49]  | U    | R, V 17.0 (60 s)           |
| GRB 090424   | VWF | sync         | prompt       |     |     | 9233 [50], 9252 [51]                                     | K, I | R 9.0 (25 s)               |
| GRB 090528B  | WF  |              | 7 h          |     |     | 9468 [52]  | U    | R 19.0, V 18.1 (180 s)     |
| Upgrade of Kislovodsk MASTER-II                          |     |              |              |     |     |  |      |                            |
| GRB 090715B  | WF  | 19           | 484          |     |     | 9681 [53]  | M    | C 20.0 (3330 s)            |
| GRB 090820*  | VWF |              | 9            |     |     | 9830 [54]  | K    | R + P 11.0 (5 s)           |
| GRB 091020   | WF  |              | 3422         | yes |     | 10052 [55], 10231 [56]                                   | K    |                            |
| GRB 091127   | WF  | 9            | 91           | yes | yes | 10203 [57]   | K    |                            |

Table 1. (Contd.)

| GRB  | I       | $\delta T_a$ | $\delta T_t$ | O   | P   | GCN   | Site    | Optical limiting magnitude       |
|--|---------|--------------|--------------|-----|-----|---|---------|----------------------------------|
| Start of Blagoveshchensk and Tunka MASTER-II in test mode; dismantling of Irkutsk MASTER-VWF |         |              |              |     |     |   |         |                                  |
| GRB 091130A  | WF      | 23           | 442          |     |     | 10213 [58]  | B       | C 16.0 (600 s)                   |
| GRB 091130B  | WF      | 40           | 65           |     |     | 10216 [59]  | B       | C 15.0 (60 s)                    |
| GRB 100122A*   | WF, VWF | 30           | 59           |     |     | 10354 [60]  | B       | C 17.0 (60 s),<br>VFW 11.5 (5 s) |
| GRB 100206A  | WF      | 73           | 90           |     |     | 10391 [61]  | B       | VWF 11.5 (5 s)                   |
| GRB 100131A*   | VWF     | 76           | 93           |     |     | 10393 [62]  | B       | VFW 10.0 (5 s)                   |
| GRB 100302A  | WF      | 51           | 139          |     |     | 10463 [63]  | B       | C 17.0 (30 s)                    |
| GRB 100319A  | WF      | 64           | 73           |     |     | 10527 [64]  | B       | C 16.0 (20 s)                    |
| GRB 100413A  | WF      | 32           | 65           |     |     | 10582 [65]  | T, B    | C 17.0 (30 s)                    |
| GRB 100418A  | WF      | 21           | 31           |     |     | 10633 [66]  | T       | C 14.5 (10 s)                    |
| GRB 100514A  | WF      | 25           | 71           |     |     | 10763 [67]  | U       | C 17.0 (20 s)                    |
| GRB 100517A*   | VWF     |              | prompt       |     |     | 10769 [68]  | B       | C 8.0 (1 s)                      |
| GRB 100526A  | WF      | 21 min       | 21 min       |     |     | 10798 [69]  | B       | U 18.2 (600 s)                   |
| GRB 100614A  | WF      | 26           | 479          |     |     | 10853 [70]  | K       | P 20.9 (6120 s)                  |
| GRB 100718A*   | VWF     |              | prompt       |     |     | 10965 [71]  | K, T    | R 14.0 (25 s)                    |
| GRB 100816A  | WF      | 21           | 1350         |     |     | 11105 [72]  | K       | C 17.2 (180 s)                   |
| Upgrade of Tunka MASTER-II   |         |              |              |     |     |   |         |                                  |
| GRB 100829A  | WF      | 30           | 44           |     |     | 11157 [73]  | K       | P 15.7 (200 s)                   |
| GRB 100901A  | WF      | 45           | 101          | yes |     | 11161 [74], 11163 [75],<br>11165 [76], 11178 [77] | T/B/U/K |                                  |
| GRB 100902A  | WF      | 27           | 104          |     |     | 11182 [78], 11185 [79]                            | U       | P 17.0 (20 s)                    |
| GRB 100905A  | WF      | 33           | 55           |     |     | 11216 [80]  | T       | P 16.5 (10 s)                    |
| GRB 100906A  | WF      | 23           | 38           | yes | yes | 11228 [81], 11231 [82],<br>11235 [83]             | T/B     |                                  |
| GRB 100925A  | WF      | 2.5 h        |              |     |     | 11314 [84]  | T, B    | MAXI J1659-152                   |
| GRB 101008A  | WF      | 23           | 53           | yes |     | 11328 [85]  | U/T     |                                  |
| GRB 101020A  | WF      | 22           | 106          |     |     | 11359 [86], 11361 [87]                            | U       | P + V 14.0 (20 s)                |
| GRB 101112A  | WF      | 21           | 36           |     |     | 11401 [88]  | K       | P + V 15.7 (10 s)                |
| GRB 101123A*   | WF, VWF | 23           | 111          |     |     | 11426 [89]  | K       | P + V 15.0 (20 s)                |
| GRB 110106A  | WF      | 17           | 41           |     |     | 11523 [90], 11542 [91]                            | K       | P + V 16.0 (10 s)                |
| Upgrade of Blagoveshchensk MASTER-II   |         |              |              |     |     |   |         |                                  |
| GRB 110106B  | WF      | 23           | 44           | yes |     | 11548 [92], 11555 [93]                            | K       | P + V 16.0 (10 s)                |
| GRB 110112A  | WF      | 13 h         | 13 h         |     |     | 11558 [94]  | K       | R 19.0 (180 s)                   |
| GRB 110120A*   | WF, VWF | 24           | 63           |     |     | 11588 [95], 11598 [96]                            | K       | P + V 13.0 (10 s)                |
| GRB 110201A  | WF      | 21           | 46           |     |     | 11623 [97]  | B       | V 14.5 (10 s)                    |
| GRB 110207A  | WF      |              | 30           |     |     | 11660 [98]  | B/T     | P + V 14.1 (10 s)                |
| GRB 110223A  | VWF     | 7            | 147          |     |     | 11767 [99]  | B       | V 13.0 (5 s)                     |

Table 1. (Contd.)

| GRB                | I       | $\delta T_a$ | $\delta T_t$ | O   | P   | GCN                      | Site    | Optical limiting magnitude              |
|--------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|-----|-----|--------------------------|---------|---|
| GRB 110315A        | WF      | 44           | 89           |     |     | 11791 [100]              | K       | $P + V$ 17.3 (20 s)                     |
| GRB 110328A        | WF      | 23           | 1257         |     |     | 11915 [101]              | T       | $P + R$ 19.1 (180 s)                    |
| GRB 110407A        | WF      | 25           | 107          |     |     | 11897 [102], 11908 [103] | B       | $P + V$ 17.8 (20 s)                     |
| GRB 110411A        | WF      | 19           | 44           |     |     | 11919 [104], 11924 [105] | T       | $P + R$ 17.5 (20 s)                     |
| GRB 110422A        | WF      | 34           | 53           | yes | yes | 11960 [106], 12007 [107] | T       | $R$ 16.5 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 110426A*       | VWF     | sync         | sync         |     |     | 11981 [108]              | T       | $R$ 13.8 (20 s)                         |
| GRB 110520A        | WF      | 23           | 53           |     |     | 12021 [109]              | U, T    | $C$ 17.0 (10 s),<br>$P + R$ 15.0 (10 s) |
| GRB 110521A        | WF, VFW | 32           | 92           |     |     | 12033 [110], 12040 [90]  |         | $P + R$ 16.0 (20 s),<br>$C$ 12.0 (sync) |
| GRB 110530A        | WF      | 12           | 73           | yes |     | 12050 [111]              | T       | $P + R$ 15.2 (10 s)                     |
| GRB 110610A        | WF      | 30           | 55           |     |     | 12066 [112]              | T       | $P + R$ 15.0 (10 s)                     |
| GRB 110709A        | WF      | 29           | 54           |     |     | 12120 [113]              | T       | $P + V$ 16.0 (10 s)                     |
| GRB 110801A        | WF      | –            | 101          | yes |     | 12138 [114]              | T       | $P + V$ 14.0 (10 s)                     |
| GRB 110820A        | WF      | 45           | 133          |     |     | 12289 [115], 12300 [116] | T       | $P + V$ 16.5 (30 s)                     |
| GRB 110915A        | WF      | 15           | 31           |     |     | 12337 [117]              | B       | $P$ 12.0 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 110921A        | WF      | 7            | 53           |     |     | 12374 [118]              | B, T    | $P$ 17.2/17.5 (10 s)                    |
| GRB 111022A        | WF      | 29           | 47           |     |     | 12473 [119]              | K       | $P$ 16.6 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 111022B        | WF      | 22           | 583          |     |     | 12475 [120]              | K       | $P$ 17.0 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 111103B        | WF      | 19           | 42           |     |     | 12520 [121]              | T       | $P$ 16.0 (10 s)                         |
| Swift J1922.7-1716 | WF      | 28           | 98           |     |     | 12526 [121]              | K       | saturate                                |
| GRB 111204B        | WF      |              | 115          |     |     | 12616 [122]              | K       | saturate                                |
| GRB 111215A        | WF      | 26           | 381          |     |     | 12687 [123]              | T, B, K | 18.8                                    |
| GRB 111215A        | VWF     | sync         | sync         |     |     | 12687 [123]              | T       | 12.0                                    |
| GRB 120106A        | WF      | 19           | 46           |     |     | 12811 [124], 12818 [125] | T       | $P$ 15.8 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 120116A        | WF      | 10           | 31           |     |     | 12835 [126]              | T       | $P$ 15.0 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 120118B        | WF      | 1417         | 1437         |     |     | 12853 [127]              | T       | $P$ 17.0 (120 s)                        |
| GRB 120227A        | WF      |              | 9.5 h        |     |     | 12902 [128]              | T       | $P$ 18.0 (180 s)                        |
| GRB 120229A        | WF      |              | 1.3 d        |     |     | 12907 [129]              | T       | $P$ 18.5 (180 s)                        |
| GRB 120202A        | WF      | 73           | 81           |     |     | 12917 [130]              | T       | $P$ 18.0 (20 s)                         |
| GRB 120211A        | WF      |              | 77           |     |     | 12925 [131]              | B       | $P$ 16.3 (20 s)                         |
| GRB 120213A        | WF      | 26           | 49           |     |     | 12945 [132]              | K       | $P$ 16.2 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 120219A        | WF      | 22           | 105          |     |     | 12965 [133]              | T, U    | $P$ 16.2 (10 s)                         |
| GRB 120219A        | VWF     | sync         | sync         |     |     | 12977 [134]              | T       | $C$ 11.5 (5 s)                          |

\* Here and below, the term test mode refers to observations carried out with a single telescope with half the diameter ( $\sim 20$  cm) installed on the mount.



The 11 resulting summed frames for each of the polarizations and  $R$  images were reduced using the IRAF package. The resulting light curve (Fig. 5, Table 4) is described well by an exponential dependence  $F \sim T^{-\alpha}$  with  $\alpha = 1.2 \pm 0.1$ , in agreement with subsequent observations [136]. The absolute magnitudes were calibrated using the 15 reference stars marked in Fig. 6.

**3.1.2. GRB 091127.** The Kislovodsk MASTER telescope pointed at GRB 091127 9 s after the alert (91 s after the burst) [137]. The supposed location of the GRB was  $4^\circ$  above the Western horizon. Nevertheless, we detected an optical transient. Just before sunset, 18 images with exposures from 20 to 130 s were obtained in the two orthogonal polarizations (Fig. 7). A rapidly decaying source is visible in these frames.

The extremely low elevation of the object hinders a precise analysis, especially of the polarization data. The optical depth grows dramatically with approach toward the horizon. Therefore, the four nearest stars to the object (closer than  $1'$ ) were used as comparison stars. The remaining stars were sufficiently distant to hinder neglecting the variation of the background and absorption. Moreover, the analysis was complicated by the presence of the star GSC 0586202346 in the immediate vicinity of the GRB ( $19'' = 5$  pixels).

Nevertheless, we constructed light curves in the two polarizations (Table 5, Fig. 8). The polarization curves disagree in the region of the fourth and fifth points, but this discrepancy can be explained by the extreme conditions under which these observations were taken (an elevation of  $\sim 2.5^\circ - 3^\circ$  at that time). In particular, due to differential refraction and atmospheric dispersion, the stars are elongated, and the characteristic shapes of the stars varies from frame to frame. Therefore, differences between the two polarizations can provide only tentative evidence for polarization.

The duration of the GRB was very short (about 10 s), and XRT X-ray observations began only an hour after the GRB (when MASTER was already no longer able to observe). Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the spectral slope between the optical and X-ray or gamma-ray for this GRB in the first few minutes.

**3.1.3. GRB 100901A.** Observations of GRB 100901A began nearly simultaneously on the Blagoveshchensk (45 s after the burst) and Tunka (47 s after the burst; Fig. 9) MASTER telescopes. Unfortunately, the weather at Blagoveshchensk hindered detection of the optical transient. The Tunka observations were carried out using only one of the two tubes. The object was low above the horizon, and the second tube was shielded by the cupola. The duration of the GRB in the gamma-ray was  $T_{90} =$

**Table 2.** Total number of pointings at GRBs since September 1, 2010

| Project       | Country | First pointing | GRBs recorded at time of prompt emission |
|---------------|---------|----------------|--|
| Faulkes       | England | 1              | 0  |
| GROND         | Germany | 3              | 0  |
| MASTER        | Russia  | 16             | 9  |
| Pi of the Sky | Poland  | 2              | 1  |
| ROTSE-III     | USA     | 5              | 2  |
| TAROT         | France  | 3              | 0  |
| UVOT*         | —       | 19             | 6  |

\* Space project.

$439 \pm 33$  s [138, 139]. Thus, the first five minutes of optical observations occurred simultaneous with the GRB. We detected a brightening of the object near 426 s ( $\pm 40$  s) [75], synchronous with a flare in the gamma-ray [139] and X-ray [140].

Several hours after its detection, immediately after sunset, the Ural and Kislovodsk MASTER telescopes joined in the observations. Observations on all the MASTER observatories continued until sunrise at each of them, simultaneously in the various filters. This yielded about 14 h of continuous observations in the  $I$ ,  $R$ ,  $V$ , and white-light filters (Fig. 10).

In the first minutes, the GRB was observed synchronously in the optical (MASTER), X-ray (Swift-XRT), and gamma-ray (SWIFT/BAT). It is noteworthy that even the X-ray observations began after the MASTER optical observations. A clear correlation between the emission in all the ranges was observed. For example, a flare is clearly visible near 400 s in the optical, X-ray, and gamma-ray. Synchronous observations in the three ranges enable a good spectral analysis of the prompt emission, and the long series of observations revealed periodicity in the light curve. These results and the detailed photometry and spectral analysis of this GRB are published in [141].

**3.1.4. GRB 100906A.** The Tunka MASTER-II telescope pointed at the object 23 s after receiving the alert (38 s after the registration of the burst by the Swift space observatory [142]). A  $13^m$  object was detected (Fig. 11). A series of frames using polarizers with exposures growing from 10 s to 180 s were obtained over the next four hours. The duration of the GRB in the gamma-ray was  $T_{90} = 114 \pm 1.6$  s [143]. Thus, the first three frames of the series were obtained simultaneously with the GRB. Note that these are the

**Table 3.** First pointings at GRBs from September 2010 through June 2011. The columns give (1) the GRB name; (2) the observatory at which it was first observed; (3) the duration of the GRB in the gamma-ray according to Swift BAT data  $T_{90}$ ; (4) the start time of the first optical observation  $T_{\text{start}}^{\text{opt}}$ ; (5) a flag indicating whether the optical emission can be taken to be prompt; (6) the GCN-circular number in which information about the optical observations was published

| GRB     | Observatory   | $T_{90}$ , s | $T_{\text{start}}^{\text{opt}}$ , s | GRB registered at time of prompt emission | GCN   |
|---------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 110610A | MASTER        | 46.4         | 55                                  | 0   | 12066 |
| 110530A | MASTER        | 19.6         | 73                                  | 0   | 12050 |
| 110521A | MASTER        | 13.8         | sync                                | 1   | 12033 |
| 110520A | TAROT         | 15.7         | 45                                  | 0   | 12022 |
| 110519A |               | 27.2         |                                     | 0   |       |
| 110503A | UVOT          | 10           | 212                                 | 0   | 11991 |
| 110422A | MASTER        | 25.9         | 53                                  | 0   | 11960 |
| 110420B | GROND         | 0.084        | (?)                                 | 0   | 11949 |
| 110420A | UVOT          | 11.8         |                                     | 0   |       |
| 110414A | Faulkes       | 152          | 240                                 | 0   | 11932 |
| 110412A |               | 23.4         |                                     | 0   |       |
| 110411A | MASTER        | 80.3         | 44                                  | 1   | 11919 |
| 110407A | MASTER        | 145          | 107                                 | 1   | 11908 |
| 110402A | Pi of the Sky | 60.9         | sync                                | 1   | 11864 |
| 110319B | GROND         | 14.5         | 12 h                                | 0   | 11815 |
| 110319A | UVOT          | 19.3         | 65                                  | 0   | 11812 |
| 110318B | UVOT          | 4.8          | 77                                  | 0   | 11801 |
| 110318A |               | 16           |                                     | 0   |       |
| 110315A | MASTER        | 77           | 89                                  | 0   | 11791 |
| 110312A | GROND         | 28.7         | 147                                 | 0   | 11785 |
| 110305A | GROND         | 12           | 120                                 | 0   | 11774 |
| 110223B | UVOT          | 54           | 77                                  | 0   | 11754 |
| 110223A | Pi of the Sky | 7            | 25                                  | 0   | 11763 |
| 110213B | P60           | n/a          | 37.1 h                              | 0   | 11732 |
| 110213A | ROTSE-III     | 48           | 27.1                                | 1   | 11707 |
| 110212A | ROTSE-III     | 3.3          | 31                                  | 0   | 11700 |
| 110210A | UVOT          | 233          | 144                                 | 1   | 11687 |
| 110208A | UVOT          | 37.4         | 84                                  | 0   | 11674 |
| 110207A | MASTER        | 80.3         | 30                                  | 1   | 11660 |
| 110205A | ROTSE-III     | 257          | 82                                  | 1   | 11631 |
| 110201A | MASTER        | 13           | 46                                  | 0   | 11623 |
| 110128A | TAROT         | 30.7         | 73.7                                | 0   | 11604 |
| 110119A | UVOT          | 208          | 67                                  | 1   | 11581 |

**Table 3.** (Contd.)

| GRB     | Observatory | $T_{90}$ , s | $T_{\text{start}}^{\text{opt}}$ , s | GRB registered at time of prompt emission | GCN   |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 110112A | UVOT        | 0.5          | 80                                  | 0   | 11553 |
| 110106B | MASTER      | 24.8         | 44                                  | 0   | 11548 |
| 110106A | MASTER      | 4.3          | 41                                  | 0   | 11523 |
| 110102A | UVOT        | 264          | 149                                 | 1   | 11509 |
| 101225A | UVOT        | 1088         | 1387                                | 0   | 11499 |
| 101224A | UVOT        | 0.2          | 83                                  | 0   | 11484 |
| 101219B | UVOT        | 34           | 156                                 | 0   | 11473 |
| 101219A | ROTSE-III   | 0.6          | 12                                  | 0   | 11462 |
| 101213A | UVOT        | 135          | 114                                 | 1   | 11448 |
| 101204A | UVOT        | n/a          | 126199                              | 0   | 11442 |
| 101201A | UVOT        | n/a          | 14 h                                | 0   | 11431 |
| 101129A |             | 0.35         |                                     | 0   |       |
| 101117B | UVOT        | 5.2          | 82                                  | 0   | 11411 |
| 101114A | GROND       | >10          | 35 min                              | 0   | 11409 |
| 101030A | UVOT        | 92           | 73                                  | 1   | 11389 |
| 101024A | UVOT        | 18.7         | 81                                  | 0   | 11370 |
| 101023A | UVOT        | 80.8         | 93                                  | 0   | 11371 |
| 101020A | MASTER      | 175          | 106                                 | 1   | 11359 |
| 101017A | ROTSE-III   | 70           | (?)                                 | 0   | 11346 |
| 101011A | UVOT        | 71.5         | 1374                                | 0   | 11338 |
| 101008A | MASTER      | 104          | 53                                  | 1   | 11328 |
| 100928A |             | 3.3          |                                     | 0   |       |
| 100924A | GROND       | 96           | 2052                                | 0   | 11297 |
| 100917A | TAROT       | 66           | 261                                 | 0   | 11293 |
| 100915A | UVOT        | 200          | 140                                 | 1   | 11277 |
| 100906A | MASTER      | 114.4        | 38                                  | 1   | 11228 |
| 100905A | MASTER      | 3.4          | 55                                  | 0   | 11216 |
| 100904A | BOOTES-3    | 31.3         | 21528                               | 0   | 11217 |
| 100902A | MASTER      | 428.8        | 104                                 | 1   | 11182 |
| 100901A | MASTER      | 439          | 101                                 | 1   | 11161 |

In columns (3) and (4), sync refers to a GRB observed synchronously, i.e., continuously before, during, and after the GRB; (?) means the exact time of the first observation is not known; n/a (not available) means that  $T_{90}$  is unknown.

first optical polarization observations of prompt GRB emission.

As in the case of GRB 100901A, the GRB was observed synchronously in the optical, X-ray, and

gamma-ray during the first minutes, with the optical observations being polarization-sensitive. However, the behavior of GRB 100906A differs qualitatively from that of GRB 100901A. The optical light curve

**Table 4.** Observations of GRB 091020

| $T-T_{\text{GRB}}$ , h | Filter*  | Magnitude | Uncertainty | Filter | Magnitude | Uncertainty |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| 1.0210                 | <i>R</i> | 17.93     | 0.22        |        |           |             |
| 1.0764                 | <i>R</i> | 17.43     | 0.09        |        |           |             |
| 1.1319                 | <i>R</i> | 17.78     | 0.14        |        |           |             |
| 1.1873                 | <i>R</i> | 18.03     | 0.19        |        |           |             |
| 1.2428                 | <i>R</i> | 17.87     | 0.15        |        |           |             |
| 1.2983                 | <i>R</i> | 17.58     | 0.10        |        |           |             |
| 1.3537                 | <i>R</i> | 17.94     | 0.12        |        |           |             |
| 1.6046                 | P\<      | 18.65     | 0.11        | P/     | 18.60     | 0.06        |
| 1.9830                 | P\<      | 18.91     | 0.08        | P/     | 18.46     | 0.06        |
| 2.2856                 | P\<      | 19.04     | 0.08        | P/     | 19.14     | 0.09        |
| 2.5629                 | P\<      | 19.28     | 0.11        | P/     | 19.11     | 0.09        |
| 2.8402                 | P\<      | 19.36     | 0.09        | P/     | 19.56     | 0.10        |
| 3.1174                 | P\<      | 19.32     | 0.08        | P/     | 19.38     | 0.09        |
| 3.3947                 | P\<      | 19.35     | 0.06        | P/     | 19.70     | 0.18        |
| 3.6720                 | P\<      | 19.23     | 0.10        | P/     | 19.53     | 0.11        |
| 3.9493                 | P\<      | 20.07     | 0.17        | P/     | 19.92     | 0.16        |
| 4.2266                 | P\<      | 20.67     | 0.29        | P/     | 20.03     | 0.19        |
| 4.5039                 | P\<      | 20.07     | 0.22        | P/     | 19.99     | 0.16        |

\* P\< denotes the polarizer with the plane of polarization lying at  $135^\circ$  to the plane of the celestial equator, while P/ denotes the polarizer with the plane of polarization lying at  $45^\circ$  to the plane of the celestial equator.

**Table 5.** Observations of GRB 091127

| $T-T_{\text{GRB}}$ , s | Filter* | Magnitude | Uncertainty | Filter* | Magnitude | Uncertainty |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| 92.8                   | P\<     | 14.68     | 0.25        | P/      | 14.99     | 0.22        |
| 127.5                  | P\<     | 15.00     | 0.25        | P/      | 14.93     | 0.13        |
| 172.6                  | P\<     | 15.15     | 0.25        | P/      | 15.09     | 0.11        |
| 217.2                  | P\<     | 14.95     | 0.20        | P/      | 15.47     | 0.16        |
| 272.5                  | P\<     | 15.01     | 0.16        | P/      | 16.09     | 0.30        |
| 337.7                  | P\<     | 15.59     | 0.38        | P/      | 15.67     | 0.14        |
| 423.0                  | P\<     | 15.67     | 0.29        | P/      | 15.75     | 0.24        |
| 518.3                  | P\<     | 15.67     | 0.26        | P/      | 15.39     | 0.11        |
| 633.7                  | P\<     | 15.66     | 0.55        | P/      | 15.19     | 0.21        |

\* P\< denotes the polarizer with the plane of polarization lying at  $135^\circ$  to the plane of the celestial equator, while P/ denotes the polarizer with the plane of polarization lying at  $45^\circ$  to the plane of the celestial equator.

of GRB 100906A does not display any peculiarities in the first hours, and essentially corresponds to the light curve of an ideal GRB (Fig. 12), in contrast to

the data in the gamma-ray and X-ray, where flares are visible up to 200 s. The spectrum of this GRB also differs strongly from that for GRB 100901A. More de-

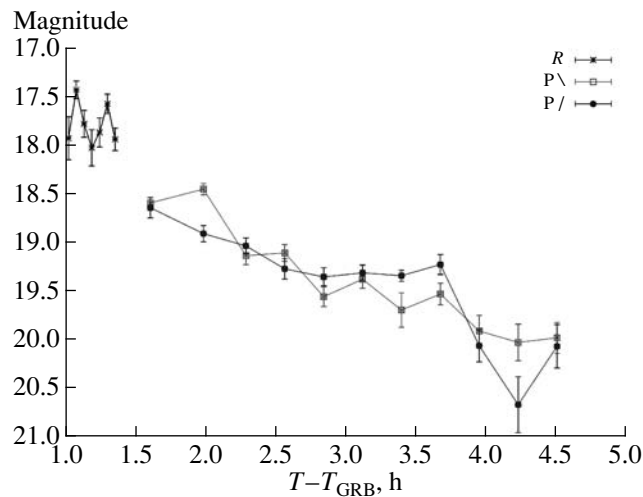


Fig. 5. Light curve for GRB 091020.

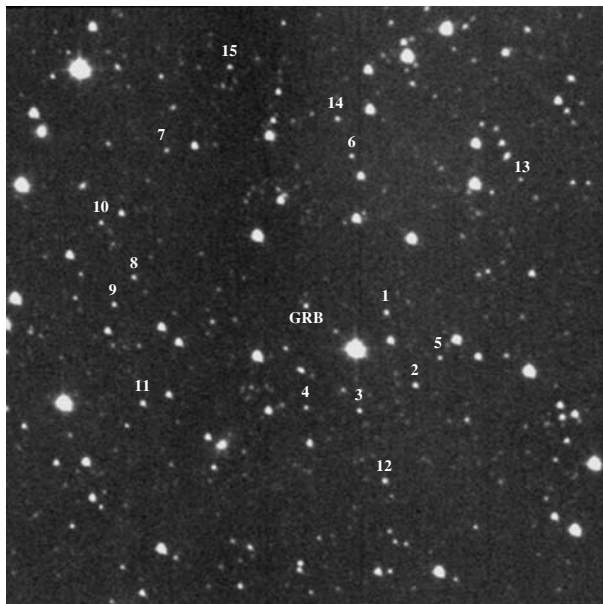


Fig. 6. Position of GRB 091020 and the comparison stars.

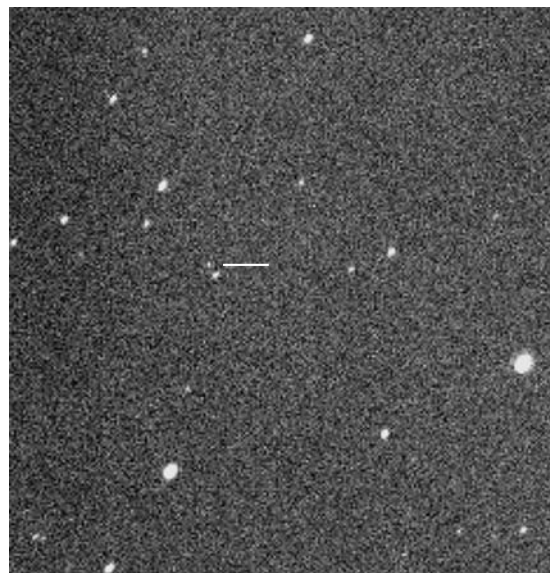


Fig. 7. First image of GRB 091127, obtained in one of the polarizations. The reference stars are the four nearest stars, apart from the star in the immediate vicinity of the GRB.

tailed information about the photometry and spectral information for GRB 100906A, and also a comparison with GRB 100901A, were published in [141].

A videorecording of this GRB is available at the site <http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/GRB/grb100906.avi>.

**3.1.5. GRB 100925A/MAXI J1659-152.** GRB 100925A was registered in an automated regime at the Tunka and Kislovodsk MASTER telescopes, just after sunset at each of them, simultaneously with Swift and MAXI [144–146]. This object has a Southern declination, and was not convenient for observation from Russia. Its elevation at Tunka

was  $15^\circ$  above the horizon, and at Kislovodsk  $22^\circ$  above the horizon [84]. This explains why relatively few measurements are available, presented in Table 6.<sup>2</sup>

**3.1.6. GRB 110106A.** The Kislovodsk MASTER-II telescope was the first ground telescope to point at the short gamma-ray burst GRB 110106A [147], and began observations in both polarizations 41 s after the burst was registered (17 s after receiving the alert). A weak object was detected in one of the tubes in

<sup>2</sup> The time indicated in this and subsequent tables and figures, and also in the text, is UT.

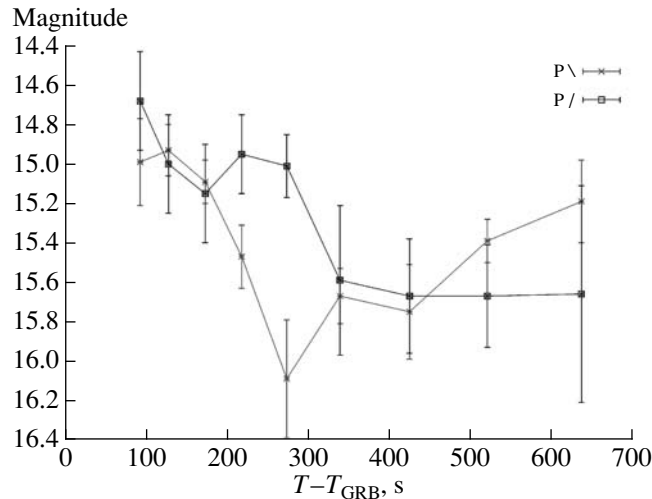


Fig. 8. Light curve of GRB 091127.

the second 10-s frame, which was rapidly reported in a GCN telegram [90]. It was later elucidated that the coordinates of the object determined from X-ray observations coincided with our coordinates. The Telescopio Nazionale Galileo on the Canary Islands reported the detection of a  $24.5^m$  object at this same location 4.41 h later [148]. These observations are consistent with X-ray data indicating a maximum in Swift Burst Analyser data at  $\sim 15\,000$  s [149].

**3.1.7. GRB 110422A.** The Tunka MASTER telescope was the first ground telescope to point at GRB 110422A [150], 53 s after the onset of the burst and 37 s after receiving the alert. The observations were carried out in both tubes and in both polarizations [106]. The exposures were successively

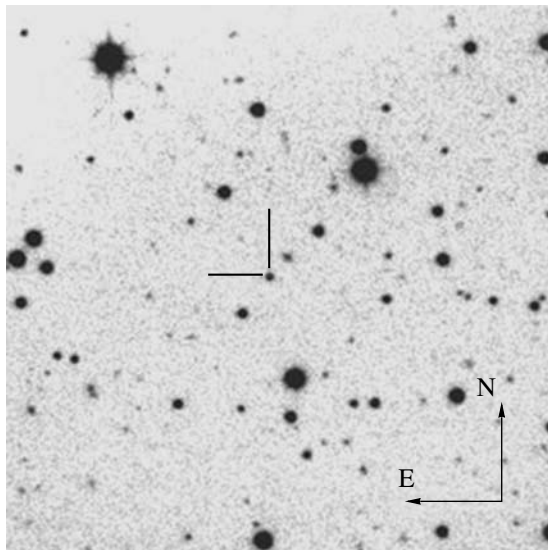


Fig. 9. Image of GRB 100901A.

increased from 10 to 180 s. An optical transient was detected in the very first 10-s frame. The observations were disrupted 35 min after they started due to poor weather conditions. It was possible to obtain 30 exposures, 15 in each polarization (Fig. 13, Table 7) [107].

In spite of the fact that the GRB formally ended before the first MASTER image (the GRB duration was  $T_{90}^{\text{BAT}} = 25.9 \pm 0.6$  s [151],  $T_{90}^{\text{KW}} \sim 40$  s [152]), the burst exceeded  $3\sigma$  right to 115 s in the Swift Burst Analyser data [149]. At least two MASTER observations were made during this interval. Consequently, MASTER detected prompt emission at those times.

The light curve obtained for the first half-hour is very well described by a power-law brightness decrease,  $F \sim T^{-\alpha}$ , with  $\alpha = 0.83 \pm 0.06$ . Although some later observations, for example,  $\sim 4$ – $6$  h later, indicate a slower decay corresponding to  $\alpha = 0.55$  [153], analysis of our data jointly with data obtained at other observatories (Fig. 14) and the independent estimate  $\alpha \sim 0.8$  of the NOT group [157] testify that the overall decay proceeded according to a single law without breaks, with  $\alpha \sim 0.8$ – $0.9$ , from 100 s to a week after the burst. Note that the burst has a high redshift,  $z = 1.77$ , independently determined by different groups [162, 163].

To construct the spectrum, we translated our observed  $R$  magnitude into a flux using the Pogson formula

$$F_{\text{GRB}}^R = F_0^R \times 10^{-0.4R}, \quad (1)$$

where  $F_0^R = 1.92 \times 10^{-9}$  erg s $^{-1}$  cm $^{-2}$  Å $^{-1}$  = 3060 Jy [164] is the calculated flux of Vega in this filter.

In spite of the comparatively low Galactic latitude,  $b \sim 10^\circ$ , the Galactic absorption is modest,  $E(B -$

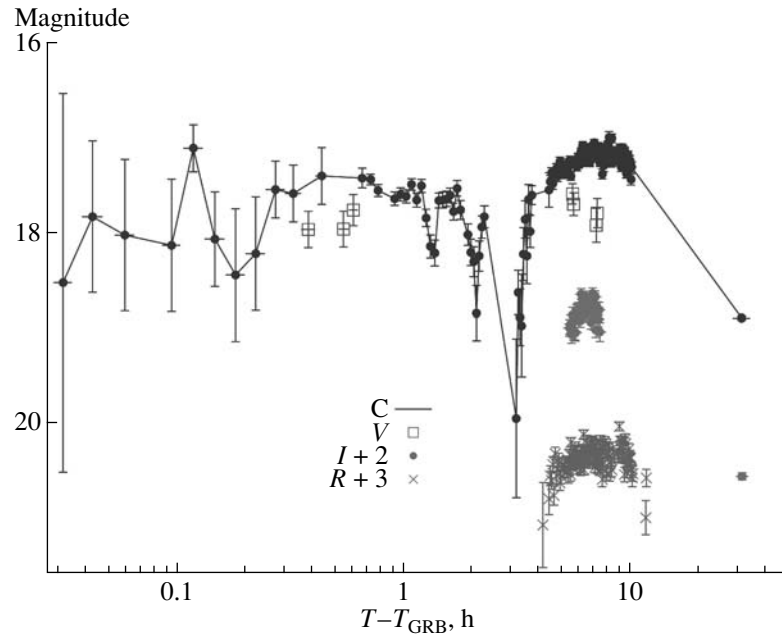


Fig. 10. Light curves of GRB 100901A in various filters.

$V) = 0.067$  [165], so that  $A_R = 2.673E(B - V) = 0.18^m$ . Taking into account absorption in the GRB host galaxy is much more complicated. This can be estimated from the surface density of hydrogen  $N_h$ , derived from soft X-ray observations. However, the disruption of dust in the vicinity of the GRB by its radiation and the possible low metallicity of GRB host galaxies [166] make such estimates uncertain, and they can differ by several factors of ten. Therefore, we will correct for only the Galactic absorption. Our data can be used to construct the spectrum from the

gamma-ray to the optical using the first MASTER data point and the last significant BAT observation, and also using four points at the end of the MASTER observations that overlap with the first XRT observations.

All our calculations assume a single power-law spectrum  $F_\nu \sim \nu^{-\beta}$  between neighboring ranges. Table 8 presents the photon indices  $\Gamma = \beta + 1$  between the optical and gamma-ray ( $\Gamma_{\gamma-opt}$ , first row) and between the optical and the X-ray ( $\Gamma_{X-opt}$ ) derived from a joint analysis of the MASTER, BAT, and XRT observations. These results show that the spectrum between the high-energy ranges and the

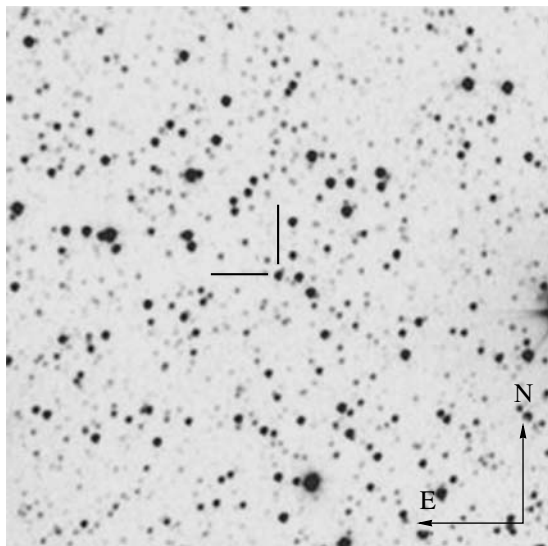


Fig. 11. Image of GRB 100906A.

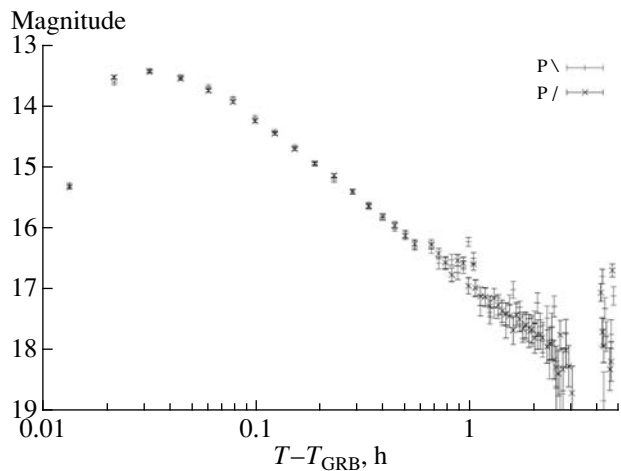


Fig. 12. Light curves of GRB 100901A in various filters.

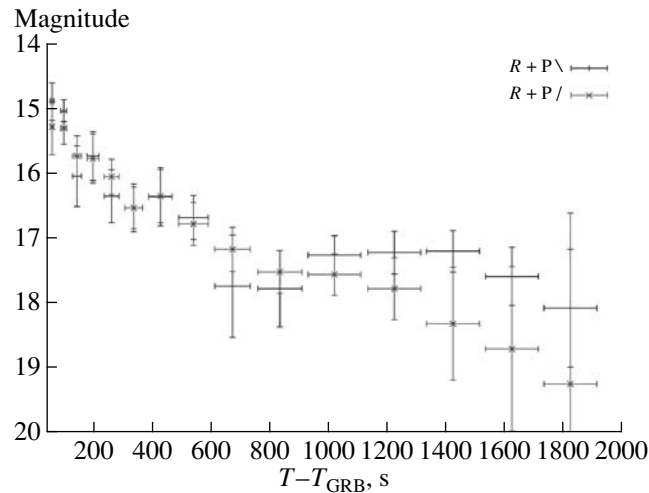


Fig. 13. Light curves of GRB 110422A in the  $R$  filter in both polarizations.

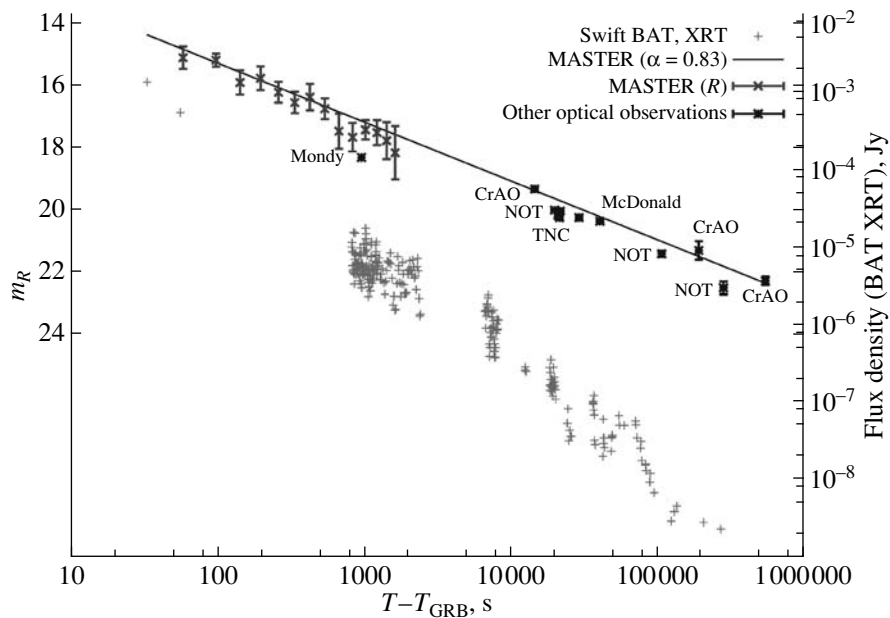


Fig. 14. Light curve of GRB 110422A obtained with the MASTER and other observatories compared with data published in GCN circulars [107, 153–161]. The line shows the mean slope of the curve  $F \sim T^{-0.83 \pm 0.06}$  obtained from the MASTER data in the first half hour of observations. Although the rate of decrease slows at some specific times, overall, the initial rate of decrease is retained during the entire week of observations. The data used to construct this plot can be found at the site <http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/GRB/110422a.txt>.

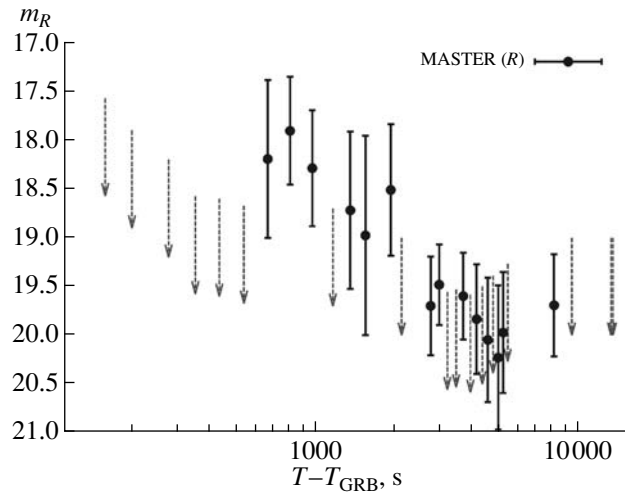
optical is not unique; i.e., the X-ray, and even more so the gamma-ray, spectrum cannot be continued to the optical. All the BAT and XRT data were obtained using the Swift Burst Analyser [149].

**3.1.8. GRB 110530A.** The Tunka MASTER telescope was the first ground telescope to point at GRB 110530A [167], 12 s after receiving the alert (73 s after the burst) [111]. The burst itself was fairly short ( $T_{90} = 19.6$  s), and the optical observations were only able to measure the afterglow. MASTER

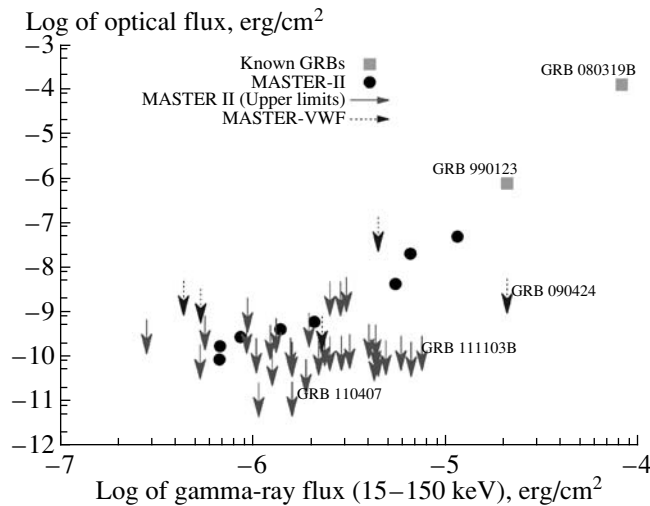
observed with successively increasing exposure times from 10 to 180 s in both polarizations. No optical transient was detected in the first few frames, and it was possible only to derive upper limits, from  $15.2^m$  (for the first 10-s exposure) to  $18.0^m$ . A weak object with  $R = 18.3$  was detected in the 10th frame with an exposure of 130 s at a time of 673 s (Fig. 15, Table 9).

The object was visible at the detection limit, giving rise to large uncertainties. The light curve shows that it was strongly variable, appearing and disappearing





**Fig. 15.** Light curve of GRB 110530A obtained at the Tunka MASTER telescope in the *R* filter (the dashed vertical lines with arrows indicate upper limits). The results of observations of the visible optical transient are presented in Table 9, and the full light curve with the optical magnitudes reached can be found at <http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/GRB/110530a.txt>.



**Fig. 16.** Dependence of the optical flux on the gamma-ray flux. Upper limits obtained by the MASTER-II telescopes are shown by solid vertical arrows, and synchronous limits with the MASTER-VWF camera by dashed vertical arrows. The filled circles show MASTER-II observations of GRB 100901A and GRB 100906A, and the hollow squares observations of GRB 080319B and GRB 990123.

in the frames. Formally, we can derive the decay law  $F \sim T^{-0.83 \pm 0.2}$ . In spite of the weakness of the object from the start of the X-ray observations ( $\sim 500$  s), it is possible to derive good estimates of the spectral slope at some times (corresponding to frames in which the object is clearly visible). The resulting measurements of the photon index are presented in Table 10.

As for the previous burst, the X-ray–optical spectrum does not agree with the gamma-ray–optical spectrum. When constructing the spectra, we corrected for optical absorption in our Galaxy corresponding to  $A_R = 0.14^m$ .

**3.1.9. Two types of GRBs.** The fundamental difference in the observed light curves and spectra for GRB 100901A and GRB 100906A [141] suggests that these two objects have a different physical nature. In the case of GRB 100901A, synchronous variations in all three bands (optical, X-ray, and gamma-ray) were observed (i.e., during the prompt emission); one example is the synchronous flare observed near 400 s. In contrast, the optical emission of GRB 100906A does not show any correlation with its harder emission. This difference is supported by the spectral data. Allowing for the uncertainty in the optical absorption in the host galaxy, the spectrum of

GRB 100901A can be described using a single power law from the optical to the gamma-ray, while, in the case of GRB 100906A, only the soft X-ray component may tentatively be correlated with the optical emission during the interval of prompt emission [141].

To test this idea, we search through more than 9000 GCN telegrams, finding 25 cases of synchronous optical and gamma-ray observations of GRBs, listed in Table 11. These GRBs exhibit two different types of behavior. For some objects, we see a clear correlation between the optical and gamma-ray or X-ray emission, while for other objects there is no such correlation. The appearance of two classes of GRBs may be natural in a model in which there is a system of two shocked regions in a relativistic jet. The inner shock arises because the explosion is not instantaneous—the relativistic particles continue to enter the channel and push up against the medium heated by the outer shock. If the optical emission arises as a result of synchrotron cooling of electrons in the inner shock, this emission will be correlated with the gamma-ray and X-ray emission, and the three bands will display a common spectrum. The spectra of the bursts listed in Table 11 indicate that, in the cases of GRB 100901A, GRB 060607, and GRB 090709, the entire spectrum from optical to gamma-ray can be described by a single power law  $F_\nu \sim \nu^{-0.5 \pm 0.2}$ , as is characteristic of synchrotron emission, when the electrons very rapidly lose energy. On the contrary, in GRB 100906A and the remaining GRBs in Table 11, there is no correlation between the optical emission and the gamma-ray/X-ray emission. It may be that, here, the optical emission arises in the leading shock front, and the light curve shows the smooth emergence of the leading shock into the self-similar afterglow regime with a power-law index  $\alpha = 1.07 \pm 0.03$ .

A critical test for this paradigm is provided by polarization observations. If emission arises in the inner shocked region in an ordered magnetic field, it should be linearly polarized.

**3.1.10. “Dark” observations of the prompt emission of GRBs.** The MASTER system is able to establish only upper limits to the optical emission of most GRBs. However, due to the very rapid pointing, the first frames are sometimes obtained before the GRB prompt emission has ended; i.e., the derived optical limits are limits on the prompt optical emission of the GRB. Moreover, more than ten VWF cameras operate in the MASTER network, which can be used to obtain images of the error squares of the GRBs synchronously with the gamma-ray observations. Synchronous observations have a great advantage over alert-triggered observations for two reasons. First, strong observational selection effects can be present in alert-triggered observations: it is

possible to observe prompt emission only from fairly long bursts (no shorter than 30–40 s), since the delays between the gamma-ray and optical observations (due to processing at the gamma-ray telescope, transmission of the signal to the Earth, resending the information to the ground observatory, pointing of the telescope) can be large, comprising of the order of 10 s for each step. Second, alert-triggered observations will never be able to detect the prompt optical emission from short, hard GRBs whose durations (to 2 s) are shorter than the signal-processing time on all existing or planned gamma-ray observatories, not to mention the additional delays associated with sending the alert telegram and pointing the optical instruments. No researchers have yet been able to detect prompt optical emission from short GRBs, or even to place upper limits on such emission.

Currently, 12 VWF cameras are operating in the MASTER network (six in Kislovodsk and two in each of Blagoveshchensk, Tunka, and Argentina). The cameras in Blagoveshchensk and Tunka and two of the cameras in Kislovodsk are installed in a single structure with the MASTER-II telescopes, and operate in accordance with the MASTER-II program; the remaining cameras are installed on individual mounts and can operate in accordance with their own program, maximally covering the field of view of the Swift BAT gamma-ray detector. Information about the current BAT field of view and GRB alerts are both transmitted through the GCN network. More detailed information about each GRB observed synchronously and films of synchronous observations within the error box can be found at the site <http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/synchronous.html>.

Apart from the successful observations described above, the MASTER-II telescopes have currently carried out more than 35 “dark” observations of the prompt emission in 15 different GRBs, as well as five GRBs observed synchronously using the MASTER-VWF camera.

Figure 16 depicts the corresponding optical limits as a function of the GRB flux (15–150 keV) for all “dark” bursts observed by the MASTER network. The same figure presents the MASTER observations of GRB 100901A and GRB 100906A for comparison, together with observations of the well known bursts GRB 080319B [168] and GRB 990123 [169]. Most of the upper limits lie below the level of the successful observations, indicating a clear lack of detectable optical emission compared to the gamma-ray emission (Fig. 16). For example, the optical brightness limit for GRB 090424, which was observed synchronously with wide-field cameras, is two orders of magnitude lower than the brightness of GRB 990123 in the region of high gamma-ray fluxes. The optical limits for GRB 111103B and GRB 110413A are one and

**Table 6.** Optical data for GRB 100925A/MAXI J1659-152

| Date and time       | $T - T_{\text{GRB}}$ , days | Magnitude | Uncertainty | Observatory |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 2010-09-25 12:09:27 | 0.098                       | 16.08     | 0.25        | Tunka       |
| 2010-09-26 02:54:12 | 0.274                       | 16.14     | 0.2         | Tunka       |
| 2010-09-26 16:25:36 | 1.276                       | 16.2      | 0.1         | Kislovodsk  |

a half orders of magnitude lower than the observed values for GRB 100906A in the region of medium gamma-ray fluxes. Moreover, the optical limits for comparatively weak GRBs (GRB 110407, for example), are at least an order of magnitude lower than the observed values for GRB 100901A. Thus, it is clear that the spectra of GRBs cannot be universal from the optical to the gamma-ray range, and there must exist so-called “dark bursts” with very weak or absent optical emission.

Note that, in addition to GRBs detected by the Swift and Integral observatories, all the MASTER telescopes and cameras react to GRB data arriving from the FERMI telescope. In contrast to Swift, the FERMI observatory is not specialized for GRB observations, so that the onboard instruments yield GRB coordinates with accuracies no better than  $\sim 10 \text{ deg}^2$ . We have numerous alerts and synchronous observations of GRBs with the FERMI observatory. Unfortunately, the poor coordinate information hinders searches for possible optical emission, making it difficult to assert with 100% probability that the entire error box has been covered by the cameras. Currently, no optical sources associated with GRBs registered by FERMI have been detected.

### 3.2. Observations of Supernovae

The search for supernovae with the MASTER network which was begun in Vostryakovo [1] was continued in November 2009. At that time, the network included the Kislovodsk and Ural telescopes [small test antennas capable of detecting only the brightest supernovae ( $13^m - 14^m$ ) were installed at Blagoveshchensk and Tunka until August and December 2010, respectively].

We adopted the following method for searching for supernovae. One of the robotic telescopes acquires a frame, reduces this frame, and generates a list of unidentified objects, which can be inspected over the internet using a specially designed, interactive web interface. Unidentified objects near a galaxy are considered to be supernova candidates. We considered a galaxy to be near an object if the distance from the object to the center of the galaxy was less than twice the maximum radius of the  $25^m$  isophote

obtained from the HyperLeda database [170]. In addition to cataloged stars and normal galaxies, the objects found in a frame can include “noise,” stars that are not included in stellar catalogs (we use the USNO B1 [171]), weak galaxies, and galactic nuclei. Noise and moving objects (asteroids) can be efficiently rejected by taking a repeat frame of the area 40–60 min later. The situation with regard to “blank spots” in catalogs is worse, especially because it is precisely near average and bright galaxies that one finds many uncataloged stars in the USNO B1 list. As a result, this approach overestimates the number of supernova candidates. Since the final verdict is made by an observer, this appreciably slows the search process. It takes human observers too long to examine the candidates proposed by the robotic sys-

**Table 7.** Optical observations of GRB 110422A

| $T - T_{\text{GRB}}$ , s | $R + P \setminus$ | Uncertainty | $R + P /$ | Uncertainty |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 58.5                     | 15.28             | 0.43        | 14.89     | 0.29        |
| 98.1                     | 15.3              | 0.25        | 15.03     | 0.17        |
| 143.0                    | 15.73             | 0.31        | 16.04     | 0.47        |
| 197.3                    | 15.77             | 0.38        | 15.73     | 0.38        |
| 261.0                    | 16.05             | 0.27        | 16.35     | 0.41        |
| 336.4                    | 16.53             | 0.32        | 16.53     | 0.37        |
| 427.1                    | 16.35             | 0.41        | 16.36     | 0.45        |
| 539.4                    | 16.78             | 0.33        | 16.68     | 0.34        |
| 672.5                    | 17.17             | 0.34        | 17.74     | 0.79        |
| 833.7                    | 17.52             | 0.33        | 17.78     | 0.59        |
| 1019.3                   | 17.56             | 0.32        | 17.26     | 0.3         |
| 1223.8                   | 17.78             | 0.48        | 17.22     | 0.33        |
| 1423.0                   | 18.32             | 0.87        | 17.2      | 0.32        |
| 1623.7                   | 18.71             | 1.27        | 17.59     | 0.45        |
| 1822.8                   | 19.25             | 2.64        | 18.08     | 0.91        |

\*  $P \setminus$  denotes the polarizer with the plane of polarization lying at  $135^\circ$  to the plane of the celestial equator, while  $P /$  denotes the polarizer with the plane of polarization lying at  $45^\circ$  to the plane of the celestial equator.

**Table 8.** Photon indices  $\Gamma$  in various ranges for GRB 110422A. The next-to-last column gives  $\Gamma$  in the optical to gamma-ray and X-ray, and the last column in the X-ray

| Time, s       | Range for comparison | $\Gamma_{\gamma\text{-opt}}, \Gamma_{X\text{-opt}}$ | $\Gamma_X$ |
|---------------|----------------------|---|------------|
| $59 \pm 5$    | $\gamma$             | 1.18  | 2.70       |
| $834 \pm 75$  | X-ray                | 1.46  | 2.06       |
| $1019 \pm 90$ | X-ray                | 1.47  | 2.07       |
| $1223 \pm 90$ | X-ray                | 1.45  | 2.01       |
| $1423 \pm 90$ | X-ray                | 1.41  | 1.86       |

**Table 9.** Results of optical observations of GRB 110530A

| $T - T_{\text{GRB}}, \text{s}$ | Exposure, s | $R$ magnitude | $\delta m$ |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 660                            | 110         | 18.2          | 0.8        |
| 803                            | 130         | 17.9          | 0.6        |
| 975                            | 160         | 18.3          | 0.6        |
| 1361                           | 180         | 18.7          | 0.8        |
| 1554                           | 180         | 19.0          | 1.0        |
| 1940                           | 180         | 18.5          | 0.7        |
| 2751                           | 180         | 19.7          | 0.5        |
| 2965                           | 180         | 19.5          | 0.4        |
| 3660                           | 180         | 19.6          | 0.4        |
| 4111                           | 180         | 19.8          | 0.6        |
| 4540                           | 180         | 20.0          | 0.6        |
| 4968                           | 180         | 20.2          | 0.7        |
| 5189                           | 180         | 20.0          | 0.6        |
| 8111                           | 180         | 19.7          | 0.5        |

**Table 10.** Spectral observations of GRB 110530A

| Time, s      | Range for comparison | $\Gamma_{X\text{-opt}}$ | $\Gamma_X$ |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| $660 \pm 55$ | X-ray                | 1.86                    | 2.28       |
| $803 \pm 65$ | X-ray                | 1.97                    | 2.69       |
| $975 \pm 80$ | X-ray                | 1.91                    | 2.65       |

tem to keep up with the incoming list of candidates. However, this problem has gradually been reduced over one-to-two years, since the robotic telescopes have “learned” during the course of the search, as the computer catalog has been supplemented by the results obtained by the observers. Moreover, after

the first year of operation on a given telescope, a database of frames of the entire accessible sky is made, which can be used to visually and automatically (see below) verify supernova candidates. This is especially important, since the IAU Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams list of recent supernovae (<http://www.cbat.eps.harvard.edu/cbat.html>) does not consider candidates without reference frames with the same telescope, in which the candidate is absent.

Sixteen candidate supernovae had been discovered by the end of May 2011. In addition, frames of 36 supernovae were taken during the survey before their initial discovery by other authors (see Table 12<sup>3</sup>). Thus, the efficiency of the search was less than 30%. Analysis showed that a large fraction of the supernovae that were observed but not found by the robotic approach were not discovered due to the absence of a “second pass,” due to instability of the sky opacity during the night. Recall that the Blagoveshchensk and Tunka sites, which are the richest in clear nights, only began to operate in the network from the end of 2010. Further, due to the slow internet connection in Tunka, examination of the supernova candidates began only in the Spring; i.e., the period of the first year with the longest nights was lost. The statistics of “bad” nights over 2.5 years included mainly the Ural and Moscow-region sites, which have the poorest weather conditions.

The supernovae 2008gy [172] and 2009nr [184] discovered in the robotic MASTER survey are among the best-studied, nearby Type Ia supernovae, and are practically located in intergalactic space. Supernovae similar to 2008gy and 2009nr can be distinguished as a special class of Type Ia supernovae that are not subject to the effects of ordinary and additional extragalactic gray absorption and chemical evolution. Analysis of a Hubble diagram for this class of supernovae confirms the acceleration of the expansion of the Universe [225].

The number of discovered supernovae appreciably grew toward the end of 2011, due to the introduction of supernova searches using the transient method. In contrast to the standard method, the transient method verifies the absence of an object on archive frames of the observatory, making it possible to substantially reduce the number of spurious candidates and enhance the efficiency of supernova searches. The nine supernovae 2011ha, 2011gg, 2011hh, 2011iq, 2011ib, 2011il, 2011io, 2011jy, and 2012K were discovered from October 2011 through January 2012, as well as several supernovae that had

<sup>3</sup> A fuller version of this table is available at the site [http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/SN/first\\_observations.html](http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/SN/first_observations.html).

**Table 11.** Successful observations of optical emission synchronous with the gamma-ray emission

| GRB     | Filter               | Magnitude | $T-T_{\text{GRB}}$ , s | $T_{90}$ , s | Observatory             |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 100906A | <i>P</i>             | 15.1      | 40                     | 114.4        | MASTER                  |
| 100901A | <i>P</i>             | 16.1      | 111                    | 439          | MASTER                  |
| 090812  | <i>W</i>             | 16.0      | 26.5                   | 66.7         | RAPTOR                  |
| 090709A | <i>W</i>             | 17.1      | 31.3                   | 89           | RAPTOR                  |
| 090618  | <i>W</i>             | 14.1      | 23.9                   | 113.2        | ROTSE-IIIb              |
| 081203A | <i>W</i>             | 14.5      | 167.5                  | 249          | UVOT                    |
| 081109A | <i>R</i>             | 17.8      | 110                    | 180          | TAROT                   |
| 081029  | <i>W</i>             | 16.5      | 86                     | 270          | ROTSE-IIIC              |
| 081008  | <i>W</i>             | 14.5      | 41.9                   | 185.5        | ROTSE-IIIc              |
| 080810  | <i>W</i>             | 13.7      | 38                     | 106          | ROTSE                   |
| 080607  | <i>W</i>             | 14.8      | 26                     | 79           | ROTSE-IIIb              |
| 080603B | <i>W</i>             | 14.1      | 24                     | 60           | ROTSE-IIIb              |
| 080413  | <i>W</i>             | 12.8      | 21                     | 46           | ROTSE-IIIc              |
| 080319B | <i>W</i>             | 10.9      | 0                      | >50          | TORTORA + Pi of the sky |
| 080310  | <i>W</i>             | 18.8      | 99                     | 365          | UVOT                    |
| 080205  | <i>W</i>             | 18.1      | 65                     | 106.5        | KAIT                    |
| 071031  | <i>r</i>             | 15.0      | 60                     | 180          | GROND                   |
| 061126  | <i>W</i>             | 12.3      | 23                     | 70.8         | RAPTOR                  |
| 061121  | <i>W</i>             | 14.9      | 77                     | 81.3         | ROTSE-IIIa              |
| 061007  | <i>W</i>             | 13.6      | 27                     | 75.3         | ROTSE-IIIa              |
| 060927  | <i>W</i>             | 16.5      | 16                     | 22.5         | ROTSE-IIIa              |
| 060904B | <i>W</i>             | 17.3      | 19                     | 171.5        | ROTSE-IIIc              |
| 060607  | <i>H</i>             | 13.3      | –                      | 102.2        | REM                     |
| 060418  | <i>z</i>             | 15.3      | 40                     | 103.1        | PROMPT                  |
| 041219A | <i>R<sub>c</sub></i> | 19.2      | 240                    | 520          | RAPTOR                  |
| 990123  | <i>W</i>             | 11.8      | 22                     | 63           | ROTSE-I                 |

been verified spectrally and had received an official name (Table 12).

Simultaneous with the search for supernova candidates, multi-color photometric observations of Type Ia supernovae were carried out, and were used to determine the contribution of the cosmic vacuum energy (dark energy). During the survey, 387 supernovae were observed with various degrees of coverage. Detailed photometry of these supernovae is now being carried out. The Appendix presents a table of supernovae present in frames obtained by the MASTER robotic network.

### 3.3. Observations of Transients

There does not exist a strict definition of an optical transient. This is due to the enormous variety of “temporal” phenomena arising in the sky, with a variety of completely unrelated physical origins (see, for example, the classification of transients presented in the context of the GAIA project [226, 227]).<sup>4</sup>

If we define a transient as a new (unidentified) astrophysical object in a frame, such an object could be

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ioa/wikis/gsawgwiki/index.php/Triggers>.

**Table 12.** Supernovae discovered or observed first by the MASTER network (2008–June 2011)

| No. | Date*      | Nearby galaxy | $m^{**}$ | Discovered by         | Name of supernova | Type of supernova | Comments   |
|-----|------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1   | 30.10.2008 | PGC 1584648   | 17.7     | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2008gy            | Ia                | Special article [172], CBET [173]                            |
| 2   | 13.04.2009 | Anon.         | 17.7     | CRTS                  | 2009eb            | –                 | CBET [174], Atel [175]                                       |
| 3   | 13.04.2009 | Anon.         | 18.3     | CRTS                  | 2009ec            | –                 | CBET [174], Atel [175]                                       |
| 4   | 17.09.2009 | UGC 2175      | 18.2     | LOSS                  | 2009iz            | Ib/c              | CBET [176]   |
| 5   | 08.10.2009 | IC 1320       | 16       | R. Arbour             | 2009jr            | Ia                | CBET [177]   |
| 6   | 14.10.2009 | Anon.         | 15.5     | CRTS                  | 2009kk            | Ia                | CBET [178]   |
| 7   | 08.11.2009 | IC 1549       | 18       | LOSS                  | 2009li            | Ia                | CBET [179]   |
| 8   | 17.11.2009 | Anon.         | 17.4     | CRTS                  | 2009lv            | Ia                | CBET [180]   |
| 9   | 25.11.2009 | Anon.         | 19.3     | CRTS                  | 2009nh            | Ic                | CBET [181]   |
| 10  | 27.11.2009 | J022619-1857  | 14.8     | SWIFT BAT             | 2009nz            | Ic                | Alert observation GRB 091127 [57]                            |
| 11  | 02.12.2009 | NGC 3839      | 16.6     | Itagaki               | 2009mh            | Ia                | CBET [182]   |
| 12  | 15.12.2009 | Anon.         | 17.4     | CRTS                  | 2009mv            | Ia                | CBET [183]   |
| 13  | 22.12.2009 | UGC 8255      | 13.6     | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2009nr            | Ia                | Discovered independently [184], CBET [185]                   |
| 14  | 23.12.2009 | NGC 2839      | 18.3     | LOSS                  | 2009mx            | Ia-p              | CBET [186]   |
| 15  | 27.01.2010 | PGC 51710     | R15.3    | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2010V             | Ia                | CBET [187]   |
| 16  | 28.02.2010 | UGC 10679     | 16.5     | L. Cox, T. Puckett    | 2010ag            | Ia                | CBET [188]   |
| 17  | 06.03.2010 | Anon.         | 16.9     | ROTSE                 | 2010ai            | Ia                | CBET [189]   |
| 18  | 28.02.2010 | MCG 0341142   | 18.2     | LOSS                  | 2010ak            | Ic                | CBET [190]   |
| 19  | 08.03.2010 | MCG 130910    | 17.2     | J. Newton, T. Puckett | 2010at            | Ia-p              | CBET [191]   |
| 20  | 09.03.2010 | Anon.         | 17.5     | CRTS                  | 2010ay            | Ic                | CBET [192]   |
| 21  | 12.03.2010 | Anon.         | 15.2     | CRTS                  | 2010ba            | Ia                | CBET [193]   |
| 22  | 02.05.2010 | NGC 5177      | 17       | R. Itagaki; PTF       | 2010cr            | –                 | CBET [194]   |
| 23  | 15.05.2010 | PGC 1895764   | 15.2     | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2010db            | –                 | Star with high proper motion, CBET [195]                     |
| 24  | 29.05.2010 | PGC 43005     | 17.6     | V. P. Shumkov         | 2010ea            | –                 | CBET [196]   |
| 25  | 01.06.2010 | NGC 3184      | 17.2     | Itagaki               | 2010dn            | –                 | CBET [197, 198], Atel [199, 2000], bright blue variable star |
| 26  | 31.08.2010 | Anon.         | 16.6     | Leonini, G. Guerrini  | 2010ho            | Ia                | CBET [201]   |
| 27  | 29.08.2010 | Anon.         | 18.7     | CRTS                  | 2010hu            | Ia                | CBET [202]   |
| 28  | 20.09.2010 | NGC 2333      | 17.6     | LOSS                  | 2010ie            | IIP               | CBET [203]   |
| 29  | 19.10.2010 | UGC 03552     | 16.7     | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2010iz            | IIP               | Discovered independently, Atel [204]                         |
| 30  | 26.10.2010 | PGC 066672    | 17.2     | P. V. Balanutsa       | –                 | Ia                | Atel [205]   |
| 31  | 27.10.2010 | UGC 04543     | 16.3     | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2010io            | Ic                | Discovered independently, Atel [206, 207]                    |
| 32  | 04.11.2010 | UGC 0595      | 19       | P. V. Balanutsa       | 2010jo            | Ia                | Discovered independently, Atel [207, 208]                    |

**Table 12.** (Contd.)

| No. | Date*      | Nearby galaxy      | $m^{**}$ | Discovered by           | Name of supernova | Type of supernova | Comments   |
|-----|------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 33  | 08.11.2010 | Anon.              | 18.1     | ROTSE                   | 2010ke            | Ia                | CBET [209]                                       |
| 34  | 31.10.2010 | Anon.              | 18.5     | T. A. Fatkhullin et al. | 2010kj            | Ia                | CBET [210]                                       |
| 35  | 03.11.2010 | Anon.              | 18.2     | CRTS                    | 2010le            | Ia                | CBET [211]                                       |
| 36  | 29.11.2010 | SDSS J120939       | 15.5     | P. V. Balanutsa         | —                 | —                 | Not confirmed, ultra-bright SNIIn(?), Atel [212] |
| 37  | 19.12.2010 | SDSS J124138       | 17.9     | P. V. Balanutsa         | —                 | —                 | Not confirmed, Atel [213]                        |
| 38  | 01.01.2011 | Anon.              | 18.6     | CRTS                    | 2011P             | IIn               | CBET [214]                                       |
| 39  | 29.01.2011 | Anon.              | 19       | ROTSE                   | 2011ad            | Ia                | CBET [215]                                       |
| 40  | 13.02.2011 | PGC 021381         | 13.9(V)  | I. V. Kudelina          | 2011aa            | Ia                | Discovered independently, Atel [216]             |
| 41  | 27.02.2011 | PGC 2440228        | 19.0     | V. P. Shumkov           | —                 | —                 | Not confirmed, Atel [217]                        |
| 42  | 14.03.2011 | IC 3862            | 16.2     | Gavin                   | 2011az            | IIP               | CBET [218]                                       |
| 43  | 01.03.2011 | Anon.              | 15.8     | La Sagra Survey         | 2011bk            | Ia                | CBET [219]                                       |
| 44  | 09.03.2011 | PGC 2128586        | 19.7     | V. P. Shumkov           | —                 | —                 | Not confirmed, Atel [220]                        |
| 45  | 23.03.2011 | Anon.              | 19.2     | CRTS                    | 2011bt            | Ia                | CBET [221]                                       |
| 46  | 26.03.2011 | 082752.77+704606.0 | 19.1     | V. M. Lipunov           | —                 | SNIIn(?)          | Spectrum on SAO 6-m, Atel [222]                  |
| 47  | 26.04.2011 | PGC 045903         | 16.2     | V.P.I. Shumkov          | —                 | Ia                | Atel [223]                                       |
| 48  | 05.05.2011 | NGC 5425           | 15.9     | J. Newton, T. Puckett   | 2011ck            | IIP               | CBET [224]                                       |

\* Date of discovery or first observation by MASTER for supernovae discovered by other observatories.

\*\* The magnitude at the time of discovery is in white light if not noted otherwise.

- (1) a dwarf nova,
- (2) a classical nova,
- (3) a luminous red nova,
- (4) a Type Ia supernova,
- (5) a flare on a red dwarf whose brightness goes below the limit of the survey and working catalog ( $\sim 20^m - 21^m$ ),
- (6) a Type Ib/c supernova or Type II supernova,
- (7) a super-bright supernova,
- (8) an orphan afterglow, as a rule, associated with a GRB whose hard-energy beam does not coincide with the direction toward the Earth,
- (9) an afterglow from an ordinary short or long GRB,
- (10) a flare in the nucleus of a distant active galaxy or quasar,

- (11) an asteroid or comet.

However, from the point of view of formal searches for transients in the framework of our project, we can distinguish two groups of transient objects:

(1) slow transients—uncataloged objects that are absent from earlier frames and prevent on two survey frames for a given night (e.g. supernovae, cataclysmic variables, dwarf and classical novae, and many others),

(2) fast transients—uncataloged objects with characteristic flare times of the order of a minute, which are visible in both tubes in one of two passages during a given night [short transients can also be detected with VWF cameras (e.g. optical afterglows of GRBs, orphan afterglows)].

Table 13. Transients discovered by the MASTER network

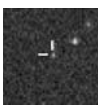
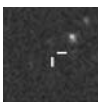
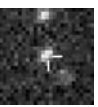
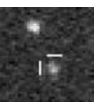
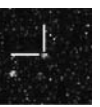
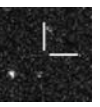
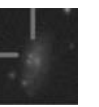
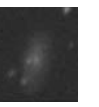
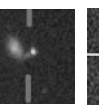
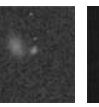
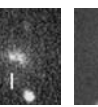
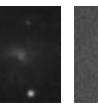
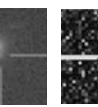
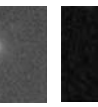
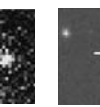
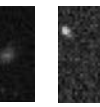
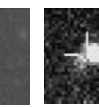
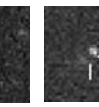


| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$   | $\delta$    | Filter** | $m^{***}$ | Ref**** | Interpretation                                       | Discovery frame   | Reference frame*****  |
|-----|-------|---------------|--|-------------|----------|-----------|---------|--|---|---|
| 1   | K     | 2010-06-14.86 | 15 <sup>h</sup> 50 <sup>m</sup> 11.27 <sup>s</sup> | 12°16'42.2" | R, V     | 18.0      | [228]   | Rediscovery of SN 2010er [229]                       |    |    |
| 2   | K     | 2010-09-27.99 | 07 19 48.91  | 40 53 32.3  | C        | 16.7      | [230]   | Flare on dwarf nova [231], discovery of AAVSO 249637 |    |    |
| 3   | K     | 2010-10-01.98 | 01 53 47.24  | 30 38 44.0  | V        | 17.9      | [232]   | CV(?) [233] or discovery of dwarf nova AAVSO 249699  |    |    |
| 4   | K     | 2010-10-19.06 | 06 49 52.83  | 28 22 27.6  | C        | 16.7      | [204]   | SN in UGC 03552                                      |    |    |
| 5   | K     | 2010-10-26.72 | 21 23 21.37  | 17 15 18.9  | C        | 17.2      | [205]   | SNIa three weeks after maximum [234]                 |    |    |
| 6   | K     | 2010-10-27.01 | 08 43 21.46  | 45 44 16.5  | C        | 16.3      | [206]   | SN 2010io, independent discovery                     |   |   |
| 7   | K     | 2010-11-04.75 | 00 57 35.54  | -01 23 31.2 | C        | 17.0      | [208]   | SN 2010jo, independent discovery                     |  |  |
| 8   | K     | 2010-12-19.01 | 12 41 38.10  | 47 47 51.4  | C        | 17.9      | [213]   | SN in SDSS J124138.20+474742.9                       |  |  |
| 9   | K     | 2010-12-09.72 | 01 32 41.20  | 34 38 09.1  | C        | 17.7      | [235]   | Rediscovery of dwarf nova AAVSO 251445               |  |  |
| 10  | T     | 2011-01-24.64 | 12 09 39.35  | 56 09 17.3  | C        | 15.5      | [212]   | SNIIn(?)   |  |  |



Table 13. (Contd.)

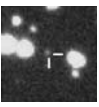
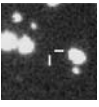
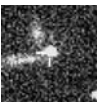
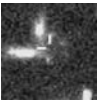
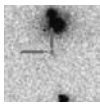
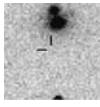


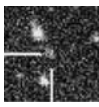

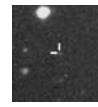

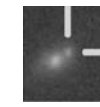

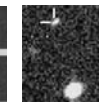
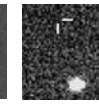
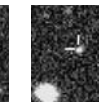
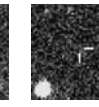
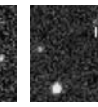
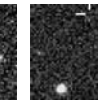
| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$    | $\delta$   | Filter** | $m^{***}$      | Ref**** | Interpretation   | Discovery frame   | Reference frame*****  |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|----------------|---------|--|---|---|
| 11  | K     | 2011-01-26.83 | 05 45 47.15 | 09 12 00.3 | C        | 18.4           | [236]   | Optical flare of X-ray source 2XMM J054547.2+091159          |    |    |
| 12  | B     | 2011-02-13.54 | 07 36 42.49 | 74 26 35.1 | C        | 13.9           | [216]   | Rediscovery of SN 2011aa [237]                               |    |    |
| 13  | T     | 2011-02-27.27 | 16 18 30.77 | 53 24 31.7 | C        | $19.0 \pm 0.4$ | [217]   | SN candidate B PGC 2440228                                   |    |    |
| 14  | K     | 2011-03-09.59 | 12 50 29.47 | 38 29 45.8 | C        | $19.7 \pm 0.4$ | [220]   | SN candidate in PGC 2128586                                  |    |    |
| 15  | K     | 2011-03-26.76 | 08 39 18.37 | 17 43 15.9 | C        | $18.9 \pm 0.4$ | [238]   | Asteroid   |    |    |
| 16  | T     | 2011-03-26.59 | 08 27 52.77 | 70 46 06.0 | C        | 19.1           | [222]   | Object with one spectral line [239, 240]                     |    |    |
| 17  | K     | 2011-04-26.77 | 13 12 56.30 | 47 27 15.0 | C        | 16.2           | [223]   | SNIa, independently discovered and confirmed PTF [241]       |   |   |
| 18  | T     | 2011-05-08.78 | 15 22 06.02 | 30 20 42.7 | C        | 18.3           | [242]   | (?)  |  |  |
| 19  | T     | 2011-05-12.77 | 17 29 00.0  | 75 18 42.5 | C        | 17.7           | [243]   | "M8 star high Galactic Latitude Flare," flare on brown dwarf |  |  |
| 20  | U     | 2011-05-14.86 | 07 37 21.02 | 85 43 23.7 | C        | 19.5           | [243]   | (?)  |  |  |

Table 13. (Contd.)

| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$    | $\delta$    | Filter** | $m^{***}$ | Ref**** | Interpretation   | Discovery frame | Reference frame***** |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|---------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| 21  | T     | 2011-05-14.69 | 13 13 20.36 | 69 26 48.3  | C        | 16.1      | [243]   | SNIIn(?)   |                 |                      |
| 22  | T     | 2011-06-04.77 | 16 39 42.75 | 12 24 14.4  | C        | 16.4      | [244]   | Rediscovery CV Discovery CSS   |                 |                      |
| 23  | T     | 2011-08-09.68 | 16 05 58.15 | +27 59 21.6 | C        | 17.2      | [245]   | SN candidate in galaxy group<br>SDSS J160557.60+275921.1,<br>SDSS J160558.47+275931.0,<br>SDSS J160558.95+275921.8 |                 |                      |
| 24  | K     | 2011-08-17.97 | 23 20 22.36 | 44 43 30.8  | C        | 15.9      | [246]   | Flare on UGSU variable<br>VSX J232022.3+444330   |                 |                      |
| 25  | T     | 2011-08-19.70 | 19 58 28.24 | 12 12 52.3  | C        | 16.4      | [247]   | Proposed dwarf nova<br>MASTER-OT195828.24+121252   |                 |                      |
| 26  | T     | 2011-08-25.61 | 17 52 42.98 | 29 04 10.6  | C        | 17.1      | [248]   | SN 2011ft (Type Ib), rich in calcium,<br>2–3 weeks after maximum [249]   |                 |                      |
| 27  | B     | 2011-09-01.60 | 20 06 28.62 | 56 29 12.9  | C        | 17.7      | [250]   | Dwarf nova, weak ( $B \sim 22^m$ ) blue object<br>on Palomar plates.   |                 |                      |
| 28  | T     | 2011-09-03.66 | 00 22 47.85 | 32 43 24.7  | C        | 18.1      | [251]   | Flare of 2MASS 00224790+3243256  |                 |                      |
| 29  | T     | 2011-09-30.90 | 03 57 40.87 | 10 09 55.2  | C        | 18.5      | [252]   | SN 2011ha Type Ia, $z = 0.094$ , 10 days<br>after maximum [253]  |                 |                      |
| 30  | K     | 2011-10-07.86 | 00 46 21.04 | -09 09 29.2 | C        | 17.9      | [254]   | Independent discovery of SN 2011gg<br>(Type Ia), $z = 0.055$ [255]   |                 |                      |

Table 13. (Contd.)

| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$    | $\delta$    | Filter** | $m^{***}$ | Ref**** | Interpretation   | Discovery frame | Reference frame***** |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|---------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| 31  | B     | 2011-10-24.79 | 08 14 43.89 | 12 54 59.7  | C        | 14.8      | [256]   | Dwarf nova<br>MASTER-OT081443.89+125459                              |                 |                      |
| 32  | B     | 2011-10-26.65 | 02 57 04.61 | +49 47 43.3 | C        | 16.9      | [257]   | SN2011hh Type Ia, $z = 0.015$ [258]                                  |                 |                      |
| 33  | B     | 2011-10-29.36 | 02 48 49.60 | -08 04 30.0 | C        | 18.3      | [259]   | SN 2011iq Type Ia, $z = 0.015$ [260]                                 |                 |                      |
| 34  | K     | 2011-11-04.97 | 06 47 38.82 | 45 57 42.5  | C        | 15.2      | [261]   | (?)  |                 |                      |
| 35  | K     | 2011-11-07.75 | 03 11 16.23 | 37 05 02.7  | C        | 17.5      | [261]   | V0965 Per  |                 |                      |
| 36  | K     | 2011-11-04.69 | 22 56 14.61 | 38 08 15.3  | C        | 17.2      | [261]   | Dwarf nova   |                 |                      |
| 37  | K     | 2011-11-15.08 | 11 44 39.27 | +35 58 03.9 | C        | 16.8      | [262]   | SN 2011ib Type II <sub>n,pec</sub> , 2 months after<br>maximum [263] |                 |                      |
| 38  | K     | 2011-11-20.00 | 05 21 41.66 | -04 11 09.9 | C        | 16.9      | [262]   | Dwarf nova   |                 |                      |
| 39  | K     | 2011-11-20.03 | 07 35 08.62 | 19 11 26.1  | C        | 17.0      | [264]   | SN 2011il Type Ia, 1 month after<br>maximum [265]                    |                 |                      |
| 40  | T     | 2011-11-27.48 | 23 02 47.60 | 08 48 09.8  | C        | 16.2      | [266]   | SN 2011io Type Ia, at maximum<br>$z = 0.04$ [267]                    |                 |                      |

Table 13. (Contd.)

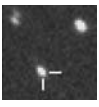
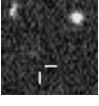
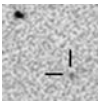
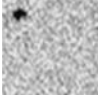
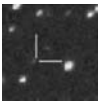

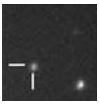
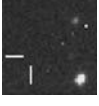
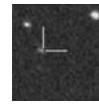

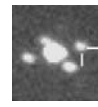





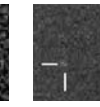
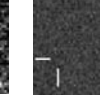
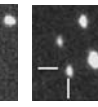
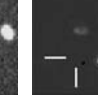
| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$    | $\delta$    | Filter** | $m^{***}$ | Ref**** | Interpretation   | Discovery frame   | Reference frame*****  |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|---------|--|---|---|
| 41  | T     | 2011-12-01.63 | 03 48 50.94 | +71 42 02.0 | C        | 16.0      | [268]   | Dwarf nova   |    |    |
| 42  | B     | 2011-12-11.88 | 11 44 44.53 | +32 30 11.3 | C        | 16.5      | [269]   | Rapid transient(!)   |    |    |
| 43  | B     | 2011-12-15.49 | 21 43 51.21 | +31 53 24.6 | C        | 17.2      | [270]   | PSN  |    |    |
| 44  | T     | 2011-12-21.60 | 01 51 47.45 | +09 49 46.3 | C        | 14.2      | [270]   | Very bright flare  |    |    |
| 45  | T     | 2011-12-22.75 | 08 41 27.37 | +21 00 54.4 | C        | 16.9      | [270]   | 3 <sup>m</sup> flare of cataclysmic variable                 |    |    |
| 46  | B     | 2011-12-28.57 | 06 17 30.02 | +35 40 36.6 | C        | 14.5      | [271]   | CV [272]   |    |    |
| 47  | K     | 2011-12-30.02 | 10 36 30.69 | -00 35 23.8 | C        | 18.4      | [273]   | M dwarf [274]  |   |   |
| 48  | K     | 2012-01-01.70 | 10 51 23.02 | 67 25 28.3  | C        | 14.6      | [275]   | Flare of X-ray and radio source [276]                        |  |  |
| 49  | B     | 2011-12-30.79 | 10 53 57.03 | +23 22 34.5 | C        | 16.5      | [277]   | SN 2011jy Type II, 1.5 months after maximum $z = 0.04$ [278] |  |  |
| 50  | B     | 2012-01-04.56 | 00 48 22.33 | +74 17 57.5 | C        | 14.1      | [277]   | Mirida   |  |  |

Table 13. (Contd.)

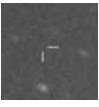
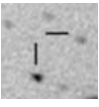
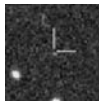

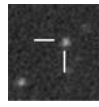

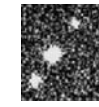
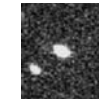
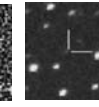
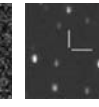
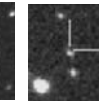
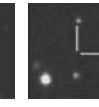
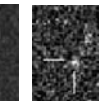
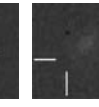
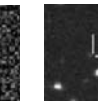

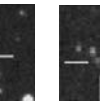
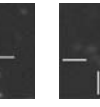
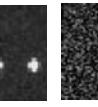
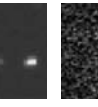
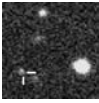
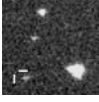
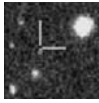

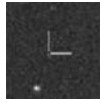

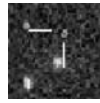
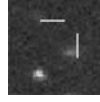
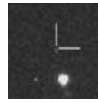

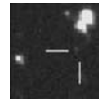
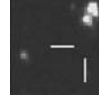
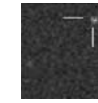
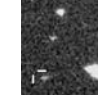
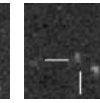
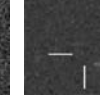
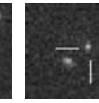
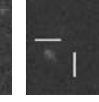
| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$    | $\delta$    | Filter** | $m^{***}$      | Ref**** | Interpretation                                    | Discovery frame   | Reference frame*****  |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------------|---------|---|---|---|
| 51  | B     | 2011-12-31.50 | 02 19 12.06 | +46 55 50.2 | C        | 15.5           | [277]   |   |    |    |
| 52  | T     | 2012-01-03.87 | 10 37 17.83 | +50 59 34.2 | C        | 19.2           | [277]   | PSN   |    |    |
| 53  | B     | 2012-01-05.53 | 05 08 06.84 | +71 23 52.0 | C        | 15.3           | [277]   | Dwarf nova  |    |    |
| 54  | B     | 2012-01-08.53 | 03 28 53.57 | 28 40 45.8  | C        | 15.3           | [279]   | Red dwarf with high proper motion                 |    |    |
| 55  | T     | 2012-01-03.96 | 13 58 27.77 | 13 56 30.0  | C        | 18.8           | [279]   | PSN or VS   |    |    |
| 56  | T     | 2012-01-04.94 | 14 08 59.07 | 25 50 12.0  | C        | 17.0           | [279]   | Dwarf nova (?)                                    |    |    |
| 57  | B     | 2012-01-08.50 | 00 34 30.79 | 30 24 06.3  | C        | $16.0 \pm 0.3$ | [280]   | PSN in PGC 002065                                 |   |   |
| 58  | K     | 2012-01-14.86 | 06 14 31.44 | 41 59 04.4  | C        | 18.4           | [281]   | Flare of very weak dwarf nova ( 23 <sup>m</sup> ) |  |  |
| 59  | K     | 2012-01-13.87 | 01 39 02.45 | 61 30 55.6  | C        | 17.1           | [282]   | Red dwarf with high proper motion                 |  |  |
| 60  | T     | 2012-01-15.97 | 16 17 55.05 | 56 35 52.6  | C        | 18.4           | [282]   | PSN   |  |  |

Table 13. (Contd.)

| No. | Site* | Date          | $\alpha$    | $\delta$   | Filter** | $m^{***}$ | Rel**** | Interpretation                           | Discovery frame   | Reference frame*****  |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|---------|--|---|---|
| 61  | T     | 2012-01-18.57 | 04 08 21.91 | 14 15 15.0 | C        | 17.4      | [282]   | Cataclysmic variable                     |    |    |
| 62  | K     | 2012-01-19.72 | 03 51 35.98 | 16 26 06.2 | C        | 18.1      | [283]   | PSN                                      |    |    |
| 63  | K     | 2012-01-19.68 | 03 41 31.75 | 14 43 33.9 | C        | 18.3      | [283]   | (?)                                      |    |    |
| 64  | K     | 2012-01-19.68 | 07 37 21.02 | 85 43 23.7 | C        | 18.7      | [283]   | (?)                                      |    |    |
| 65  | K     | 2012-01-19.66 | 03 43 37.42 | 16 43 29.4 | C        | 18.4      | [283]   | PSN                                      |    |    |
| 66  | K     | 2012-01-20.83 | 06 31 13.68 | 34 17 15.5 | C        | 19.4      | [283]   | PSN                                      |    |    |
| 67  | K     | 2012-01-21.05 | 12 48 19.37 | 07 20 49.6 | C        | 16.8      | [283]   | Cataclysmic variable SDSS J124819+072049 |   |   |
| 68  | K     | 2012-01-21.79 | 04 08 21.86 | 14 15 16.1 | C        | 18.0      | [283]   | Cataclysmic variable                     |  |  |
| 69  | K     | 2012-01-21.78 | 04 13 52.74 | 17 03 48.3 | C        | 17.6      | [283]   | PSN                                      |  |  |

\* The observatories in the MASTER network that carried out these observations are denoted K—Kislovodsk, U—Ural (Kourov), T—Tunka, B—Blagoveshchensk.

\*\* C—white light (clear).

\*\*\* Magnitude with uncertainty  $\sigma = \pm 0.1^m$  if not otherwise noted.

\*\*\*\* Reference to ATel telegram.

\*\*\*\*\* There is a reference to a better quality image in the corresponding ATel telegram.

**Table 14.** Variable stars in NGC 7129 discovered using Ural MASTER

| Star                   | Type* | Magnitude           |                     | Filter         | Period, d | Sp**** |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|
|                        |       | max**               | min***              |                |           |        |
| 2MASS 21442961+6548438 | EA:   | 14.73, 14.38        | 15.11, 14.72        | <i>R, I</i>    | 23.05:    |        |
| 2MASS 21433767+6550489 | INT:  | 17.84, 16.92, 15.96 | 18.34, 17.67, 16.72 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21435283+6554277 | SR:   | 14.17, 12.77, 11.20 | 14.30, 12.89, 11.24 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21412361+6555377 | SR:   | 13.05               | 13.41               | <i>R</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21422105+6555405 | SR:   | 14.4                | 14.55               | <i>R</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21430782+6557095 | I:    | 13.26               | 13.5                | <i>I</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21421203+6600254 | INT:  | 16.51, 15.62, 14.86 | 17.38, 16.48, 15.39 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21405762+6602255 | SR:   | 13.78, 12.29, 10.27 | 14.11, 12.56, 10.41 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21405096+6603475 | SR:   | 12.30, 10.85        | 12.45, 10.97        | <i>V, R</i>    |           |        |
| 2MASS 21395519+6604069 | EW    | 15.05, 14.09        | 15.15, 14.22        | <i>V, I</i>    |           |        |
| 2MASS 21425961+6604338 | INT   | 15.17               | 15.94               | <i>I</i>       | 4.4:      |        |
| 2MASS 21440634+6604231 | INT:  | 16.90, 16.06, 14.78 | 18.73, 17.38, 16.10 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 1.127     |        |
| 2MASS 21424705+6604578 | BY:   | 15.16, 14.27, 13.36 | 15.46, 14.50, 13.50 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21431683+6605486 | IN:   | 15.79               | 16.01               | <i>I</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21430188+6606447 | INT:  | 14.89               | 15.11               | <i>I</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21425261+6606572 | INT   | 15.66               | 16.1                | <i>I</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21425349+6608053 | IN:   | 16.17, 14.89        | 16.41, 15.07        | <i>R, I</i>    |           |        |
| 2MASS 21433182+6608506 | INT   | 17.59, 16.73, 15.70 | 18.65, 17.83, 16.38 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21431161+6609114 | INT   | 16.28, 15.21, 14.10 | 16.53, 15.47, 14.26 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           | 1.70:  |
| 2MASS 21432695+6609365 | IN:   | 14.89               | 14.99               | <i>I</i>       |           |        |
| 2MASS 21432290+6610000 | LB:   | 15.57               | 16.11               | <i>I</i>       |           | 3.770  |
| 2MASS 21433625+6611329 | BY:   | 13.43, 12.83, 12.41 | 13.57, 12.96, 12.51 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21424283+6612282 | EB    | 14.49, 13.63, 12.82 | 14.74, 13.89, 13.04 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 1.264     |        |
| 2MASS 21424023+6613287 | INT:  | 15.54               | 16.8                | <i>I</i>       | K4        |        |
| 2MASS 21413315+6622204 | INT   | 15.18, 14.37, 13.17 | 15.93, 14.94, 13.63 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21403066+6626034 | LB:   | 14.85, 13.08, 10.93 | 14.97, 13.20, 10.99 | <i>V, R, I</i> |           |        |
| 2MASS 21402965+6626442 | INT:  | 16.44, 15.45        | 16.79, 15.64        | <i>R, I</i>    |           |        |
| 2MASS 21444647+6627018 | SR:   | 13.32, 10.32        | 13.44, 10.39        | <i>V, I</i>    |           |        |

\* The notation for variable types is EA—eclipsing Algol, INT—T Tauri Orion variable, SR—semi-regular variable, I—irregular variable, EW—eclipsing W Ursa Majoris star, BY—BY Draconis variable, LB—slow, irregular, late-type variable, EB—eclipsing  $\beta$  Lyrae variable, RR—RR Lyrae star.

\*\* Maximum magnitudes in the filters given in column (5).

\*\*\* Minimum magnitudes in the filters given in column (5).

\*\*\*\* Spectral type.

More detailed algorithms for searches for and preliminary classification of transients have been published in [2].

Searches for slow transients, i.e., unidentified sources that are absent in archival frames of our survey, are well developed. New transients are discovered on a daily basis, and these data are published several times a week in astronomical telegrams (<http://www.astronomerstelegram.org/>).

Table 13 presents a list of transients discovered by the MASTER telescopes.

Let us consider some of the most interesting of these transients in more detail.

**3.3.1. The bright supernovae SN2011ha, SN2011gg, SN2011hh, SN2011iq, SN2011ib, SN2011il, SN2011io, SN2011jy, SN2012K.** Starting from October 2011, when sufficient archival material had been accumulated for the supernova search to be conducted using the slow-transient

**Table 15.** Variable stars in NGC 7142 discovered using Ural MASTER

| Star                   | Type* | Magnitude           |                     | Filter         | Period, d | Sp |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|----|
|                        |       | max**               | min***              |                |           |    |
| 2MASS 21460307+6543597 | SR:   | 13.55, 12.30, 11.06 | 13.61, 12.36, 11.10 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 0.58      | G3 |
| 2MASS 21441320+6545013 | EB/EW | 15.75, 15.15, 15.05 | 16.20, 15.60, 15.50 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 0.44      |    |
| 2MASS 21445597+6545499 | SR:   | 15.51, 14.33, 13.75 | 15.71, 14.53, 13.86 | <i>V, R, I</i> | >20       |    |
| 2MASS 21442843+6546365 | EB/EW | 17.75, 16.70        | 18.75, 17.70        | <i>V, I</i>    | 0.33      | F5 |
| 2MASS 21434785+6548225 | SR:   | 13.43, 12.16, 11.14 | 13.47, 12.19, 11.17 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 0.83      |    |
| 2MASS 21442961+6548438 | EA    | 14.70, 14.73        | 15.15, 15.10        | <i>R, I</i>    | –         | F0 |
| 2MASS 21451515+6549242 | RR:   | 15.27, 14.77, 14.83 | 15.37, 14.87, 14.95 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 0.29      | F0 |
| 2MASS 21460890+6549318 | SR:   | 13.30, 12.09, 11.30 | 13.35, 12.13, 11.33 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 0.54      |    |
| 2MASS 21435283+6554277 | SR:   | 14.23, 12.80, 11.68 | 14.35, 12.90, 11.73 | <i>V, R, I</i> | 0.83      | F0 |
| 2MASS 21451069+6554226 | SR:   | 13.09, 11.78, 10.81 | 13.14, 11.83, 10.84 | <i>V, R, I</i> | >20       |    |

\* Notation for this and other parameters is the same as in Table 14.

search method, the number of discovered supernovae sharply rose. All these supernovae are very bright, with magnitudes from  $15^m$  to  $17^m$ , making it easy for telescopes with diameters of 1–2 m to obtain spectra. Nevertheless, as can be seen in Table 13, it has not been possible to obtain spectra for all the detected transients, so that many objects unfortunately remain unconfirmed. Spectral confirmation of the supernova candidates among the transients thus remains incomplete.

However, it has been possible to obtain spectra for many of the transients discovered with the MASTER network. This very important task requires correct selection of the parameters of the system, since this is a serious problem for many large-survey telescopes, such as those in the Catalina Sky Survey.

The very bright, Type II<sub>n</sub> pec supernovae SN2011ib and distant supernova SN2011ha with a redshift  $z \sim 0.1$  stand out in this list. The remaining supernovae have redshifts from 0.01 to 0.05.

**3.3.2. Discovery of the transient MASTER-OT082753+704606.** The very interesting object MASTER-OT082753+704606 was discovered by

the Tunka MASTER telescope during a regular survey, in two passes on March 20, 2011 at 14:09:51 UT and 40 min later [222]. The observations were initially reduced in the search regime [2], i.e., in white light; at the time of discovery, the object had a magnitude of  $19.1^m \pm 0.3^m$ . The object can be identified with a weak source from GSC2.3 [284] with magnitude  $j = 21.7^m$  (N7U 1004894), but is absent from other catalogs (such as USNO B1), and is not detected in other photometric bands. Observations were made by A.V. Moiseev with the Special Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) 6-m telescope using the SCORPIO-2 spectrograph on March 29, 2011 at 19:34:23 [285], yielding a spectrum at 4000–8500 Å with a resolution of 6–7 Å [222]. The spectrum only traces the growing blue continuum and one broad emission line with  $\lambda_c = 5320$  Å. This line can most easily be explained as an emission line in the spectrum of a quasar or Seyfert (Sy2) galaxy.

Before March 2012, this region was observed by the MASTER network about once per month. The object is present in all frames with a magnitude of  $19.5^m \pm 0.4^m$ .

Later, on April 6 and May 14, 2012, ultraviolet and X-ray observations were carried out with SWIFT [239, 286]. The XRT did not detect X-ray emission from the object at the earlier epoch, but a weak object at the  $3.5\sigma$  level was detected at the later epoch. These observations may also indicate that the object is a super-bright Type II supernova (Type II<sub>n</sub>). In this case, the observed emission line can probably be identified as HeII 4686 Å at  $z = 0.135$  [286].

New spectral observations are required for a more precise identification of this transient.

**Table 16.** First observations of asteroid 2011 OH26, found by the search program

| Date             | $\alpha$   | $\delta$     | Magnitude         |
|------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| 2011-07-29.92584 | 21 <sup>h</sup> 35 <sup>m</sup> 25.72 <sup>s</sup> | 12°02'23.5'' | 19.1 <sup>m</sup> |
| 2011-07-29.95519 | 21 35 24.13  | 12 02 39.9   | 18.5              |
| 2011-08-02.79100 | 21 32 09.01  | 12 34 20.2   | 19.4              |
| 2011-08-02.85025 | 21 32 05.71  | 12 34 48.0   | 18.5              |





Fig. 17. Transient MASTER-OT081443+125459: discovery frames (left and center) and reference frame (right).

**3.3.3. Discovery of the transient MASTER-OT081443+125459.** This very bright ( $V = 14.8^m$ ) optical transient was discovered on October 24, 2011 at 18:58:57 UT with the Blagoveshchensk MASTER telescope [256] (Fig. 17). I.D. Karachentsev and T.A. Fatkhullin obtained spectra with the SCORPIO spectrograph on the SAO 6-m telescope on October 28, 2011, for two successive exposures, one in the blue and one in the red, with a resolution of  $5 \text{ \AA}$  [287, 288]. The resulting spectrum is presented in Fig. 18. This spectrum contains  $H\alpha$  and HeII  $4685 \text{ \AA}$  emission and absorption, as well as HeI  $5876, 5016, 4920, 4470 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $H\beta$ ,  $H\gamma$ , and  $H\delta$  absorption. The spectrum is typical of WZ Sge-type dwarf nova [288]. A similar spectrum was obtained independently on the Nordic Telescope [289].

**3.3.4. Discovery of the transient MASTER-OT 105123+672528.** This interesting, bright transient source with magnitude  $14.6^m$  was discovered at the Blagoveshchensk MASTER telescope on January 1, 2012. It is striking that this object can be identified with the X-ray source 1RXS J105120.5+672550 from the ROSAT catalog [290]. Sokolovskii et al. [276] observed this object over 3.5 h on January 6, 2012, and did not find any optical variability exceeding  $0.06^m$ . A month later, on February 3, 2012, the object was again observed by the Kislovodsk MASTER telescope. By this time, it had returned to its quiescent state with a magnitude of  $\sim 18.0^m$ . Pavlenko et al. [291] later detected pulsations with period  $\sim 0.06^d$  and amplitude  $0.4^m$  in the quiescent state. The hardness of the source in the ROSAT catalog and the optical behavior suggest that this may be a SU UMa-type dwarf nova.

3.4. Observations of Fast Transients

In addition to long transients (flaring on time scales from days to months), MASTER also searches

for a completely new class of objects—fast transients—whose flares have durations from seconds to several hours. Physically, these could be

- (1) mergers of neutron stars and black holes (NS + NS, NS + BH),
- (2) orphan afterglows, which, as a rule, are associated with GRBs whose beams of hard radiation are not directed toward the Earth,
- (3) transients of an unknown nature.

Searches for rapidly flaring and decaying transients can be carried out when the same region of sky falls into the fields of view of both tubes. This is the case during observations of GRBs, re-observation of interesting candidates, and photometric observations

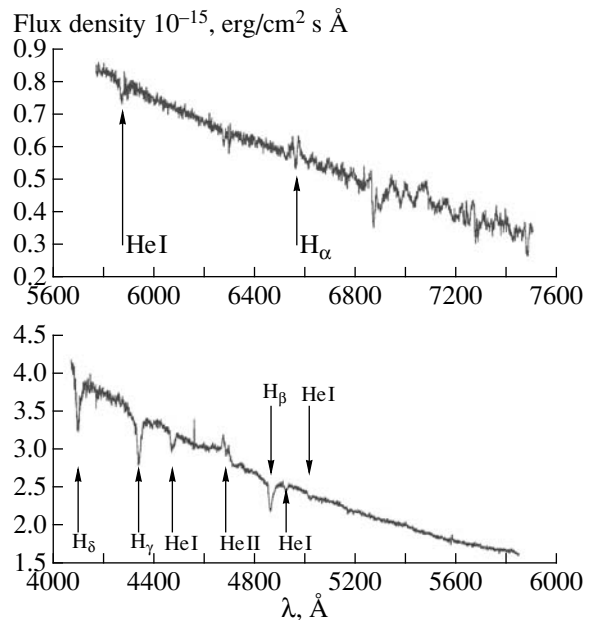
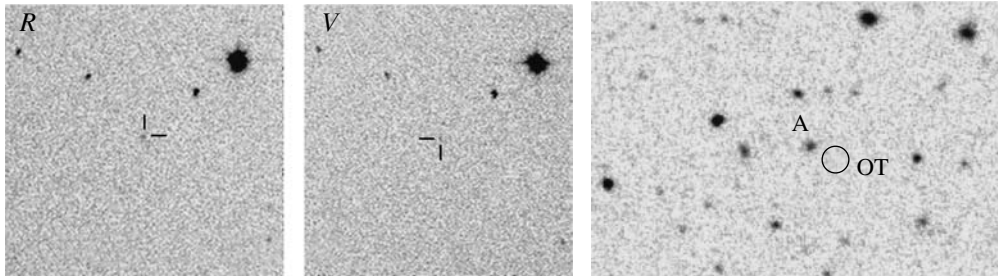


Fig. 18. Spectrum of the transient MASTER-OT081443+125459 obtained using the SCORPIO spectrograph on the SAO 6-m telescope [288].



**Fig. 19.** Discovery frames for the transient MASTER-OT114444+323011 (left and center) and exposure obtained on the SAO 6-m telescope (right) [269]. The letter A in the right panel denotes the galaxy nearest to the transient.

of various objects (such as supernovae or exoplanets). Searches for such objects were begun comparatively recently (from October 2011), and these events are fairly rare. Nevertheless, a number of the discovered objects are worthy of more detailed discussion.

Unfortunately, very often, a short transient event can easily be confused with glare from space debris in a geostationary or geosynchronous orbit. Therefore, each short transient must first be verified using a database of artificial Earth satellites. The main complication with this is the long time exposures for the MASTER observations (usually 180 s). Satellites move large distances over such times (a geostationary satellite will cover  $\sim 1^\circ$ , and satellites with lower orbits even more); therefore, the search must be carried out by recalculating the orbital grouping during the exposure many (2000–3000) times, approximating the motion of a satellite by a straight line segment corresponding to a short section of its orbit, and computing the minimum distance from the object to the calculated orbital segment. Further, to account for uncataloged satellites, similar unidentified objects lying along a single line are searched for in the frame. If three or more such unidentified objects lying along a line are found, the object is excluded from consideration.

**3.4.1. Discovery of the transient MASTER-OT114444+323011.** A synchronous flare in both tubes and in both photometric bands ( $R$  and  $V$ ) was detected on December 11, 2011 at 21:06:07.2 during a regular survey observation. The object is visible in the same place in both images, and with good signal-to-noise ( $S/N = 7.6\sigma$ ; Fig. 19). Its magnitude is  $\sim 16.5^m$ , but the object is not found on frames taken 4 min earlier and 41 min later, with optical limits  $M_R > 17.9$  and  $M_V > 17.4$ . We verified that no asteroids, planets or artificial Earth satellites were present in this location. A.V. Moiseev obtained a deep SCORPIO-2 exposure of the object on the SAO 6-m telescope on December 23, 2011 (Fig. 19, right), obtaining the limit  $R_C > 25^m$  [269]. Unfortunately, no weak galaxies or other sources were found inside our error box. The nearest galaxy is  $6.2''$  from the

center of the error box, corresponding to a linear distance of 45 kpc, assuming a redshift  $z = 1$ , typical for a  $23^m$  galaxy ( $\Omega_\lambda = 0.7$ ,  $H_0 = 75 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ). The nearest event associated with a GRB was an AGILE trigger an hour later; no GRBs were detected by Swift, Fermi, INTEGRAL, or Wind-KONUS at this time.

**3.4.2. Discovery of the transient MASTER-OT103630-003523.** This rapid transient was discovered on December 30, 2011 at 00:33:24.715, also synchronously in both tubes. Both images were obtained in white light. The magnitude of the source is  $18.4^m \pm 0.2^m$  in both frames; both frames have a limiting magnitude of  $20.4^m$ , indicating a signal-to-noise ratio  $S/N = 10$ . The same region was observed during the first pass a half hour earlier, with a limiting magnitude of  $20.4^m$ , indicating that the object flared by at least  $2^m$ . As in the previous case, we verified the absence of satellites, asteroids, and GRBs registered by Swift, Fermi, INTEGRAL, and Wind-KONUS in this region at the time of our observations.

The region was re-observed  $\sim 6.3$  days after our detection with the GROND telescope [292] simultaneously in the  $g'r'i'zJHK$  filters. No optical candidate was detected in any of these filters with very strong limits [274] (the limit for the filter closest to the MASTER photometric band was  $g' > 24.7$ ). Greiner et al. [292] note that a rapid flare (over 30 min) and fairly rapid decay ( $6^m$  over six days) are typical for GRB afterglows and flares on M dwarfs.

### 3.5. Photometric Studies of Variable Stars and Exoplanets

Observations of the open clusters NGC 7129 and NGC 7142 were carried out during 2010 at the MASTER telescope installed at the Kourov Astronomical Observatory of the Ural Federal University.

NGC 7129 is a region of active star formation consisting of a young open cluster that is immersed in a gas–dust nebula. Herbig–Haro (HH) objects [293], water masers, T Tauri stars, and Ae/Be Herbig stars

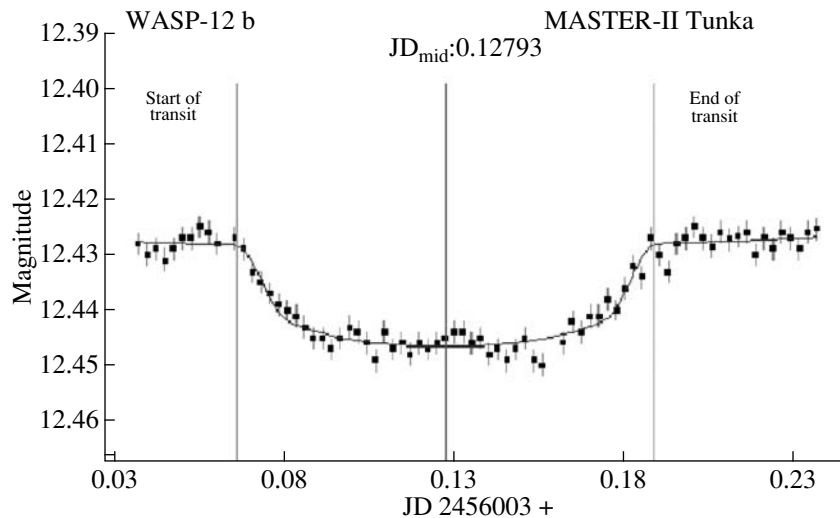


Fig. 20. Light curve of the exoplanet transit WASP-12b in the  $R$  filter obtained on March 16, 2012.

are observed in the cluster [294, 295]. According to AAVSO data, a  $75' \times 45'$  region around the cluster contains six variable stars.

NGC 7142 is one of the oldest known open clusters. According to AAVSO data, a  $30' \times 30'$  region around the center of the cluster contains one known and one suspected variable star.

About 500 frames with exposures of 120 s were taken in the  $I$  and  $V$  filters, and about 150 frames with exposures of 60 s in the  $R$  filter. The preliminary reduction and aperture photometry of the frames obtained were carried out using the IRAF V2.14 package. The magnitude uncertainties for stars with magnitudes from  $11^m$  to  $16^m$  were from  $0.007^m$  to  $0.07^m$ .

A C++ program designed to search for variable stars was written, realizing a modification of the algorithm described in [296].

About 4000 stars were searched for variability, resulting in the discovery of variability in 24 stars in the field of NGC 7129 (Table 14) and in 11 stars in the field of NGC 7142 (Table 15). The symbol “:” in these tables denotes a preliminary value for the corresponding parameter, which may be refined in future.

**3.5.1. Observations of exoplanets.** About 777 exoplanets orbiting other stars had been discovered by the middle of 2012, 239 of them through transit observations [297]. In the case of transiting exoplanets, the star, exoplanet, and observer are positioned such that an observer on Earth will periodically observe both a passage of the exoplanet across the stellar disk and an eclipse of the planet by the star.

More than half of known transiting exoplanets display deep transit depths of more than  $0.01^m$ , making them accessible for further studies with ground telescopes.

Observations of exoplanet transits can be used to estimate the radii and orbital inclinations of exoplanets, and also to detect the presence of perturbing bodies in the system (other exoplanets or their satellites), from variations in the transit times and their durations. The theoretical basis for such analyses is given in [298–301].

For characteristic transit depths of about  $0.01^m$ , reliable detection of a transit, determination of its duration and the transit mid-time, and detection of fine transit effects (such as brightness fluctuations during a transit) requires a photometric accuracy of about  $0.001^m$ , which is achievable in observations with the MASTER telescopes.

Regular observations of exoplanet transits began in September 2011 using the Tunka and Ural MASTER telescopes.

The Exoplanet Orbit Database and Exoplanet Data Explorer service were used to obtain an initial sample of exoplanets with transit depths of no less than  $0.01^m$ , orbital periods of no more than several days, and transit durations of no more than three-to-four hours [302]. The final list of stars for these observations was composed of objects believed to display variations in their transit depths, transit durations, and times of transit, as well as objects showing evidence of fine transit effects.

Observations of the known transiting exoplanets TrES-3b, WASP-10b, HAT-P-10b/WASP-11b, WASP-12b, WASP-33b, and HAT-P-36b were obtained from September 2011 through May 2012. In

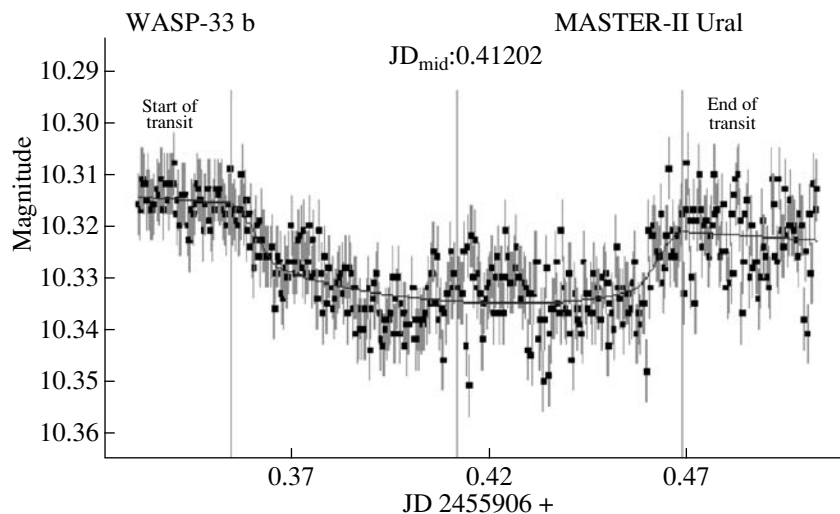


Fig. 21. Light curve of the exoplanet transit WASP-33b in the  $R$  filter obtained on December 10, 2012.

all, 16 light curves were derived, which have been published in the Exoplanet Transit Database.

Corrections for the dark current, flat-fielding, and the aperture photometry were carried out in the IRAF package. Correction of the data for variable atmospheric opacity was applied using the Astrokitt software developed at the Kourov Astronomical Observatory, which realizes a modification of the algorithm of Everett and Howell [303].

The transit of WASP-12b on March 16, 2012 observed with the Tunka MASTER telescope in the  $R$  filter is presented as an example (Fig. 20). The model curve was obtained using the “Model-fit your data” service of the Exoplanet Transit Database. The standard deviation of brightness variations of the control star USNO-A2.0 1125-04085646 is  $0.004^m$ .

WASP-12 is a classical “star + hot Jupiter” exoplanet system located in the constellation Auriga. The central star is a sun-like star with a mass about 35% greater than a solar mass and spectral type G0. A gas giant with a mass about 40% greater than a Jupiter mass revolves around this star in a nearly circular orbit with a period slightly longer than an Earth day. The main peculiarity of the system is the very low orbit of the planet—currently the lowest of all known exoplanets. This system also displays variations in the transit time, making it of interest for further studies.

The presence of fine transit effects is illustrated by the transiting exoplanet WASP-33b, which was observed by the Ural MASTER telescope on December 10, 2012 (Fig. 21). The photometric accuracy was estimated using the standard deviation of brightness variations displayed in the  $R$  filter by the control star, BD+37 553, equal to  $0.007^m$ . However, even with such moderate accuracy, a characteristic increase in

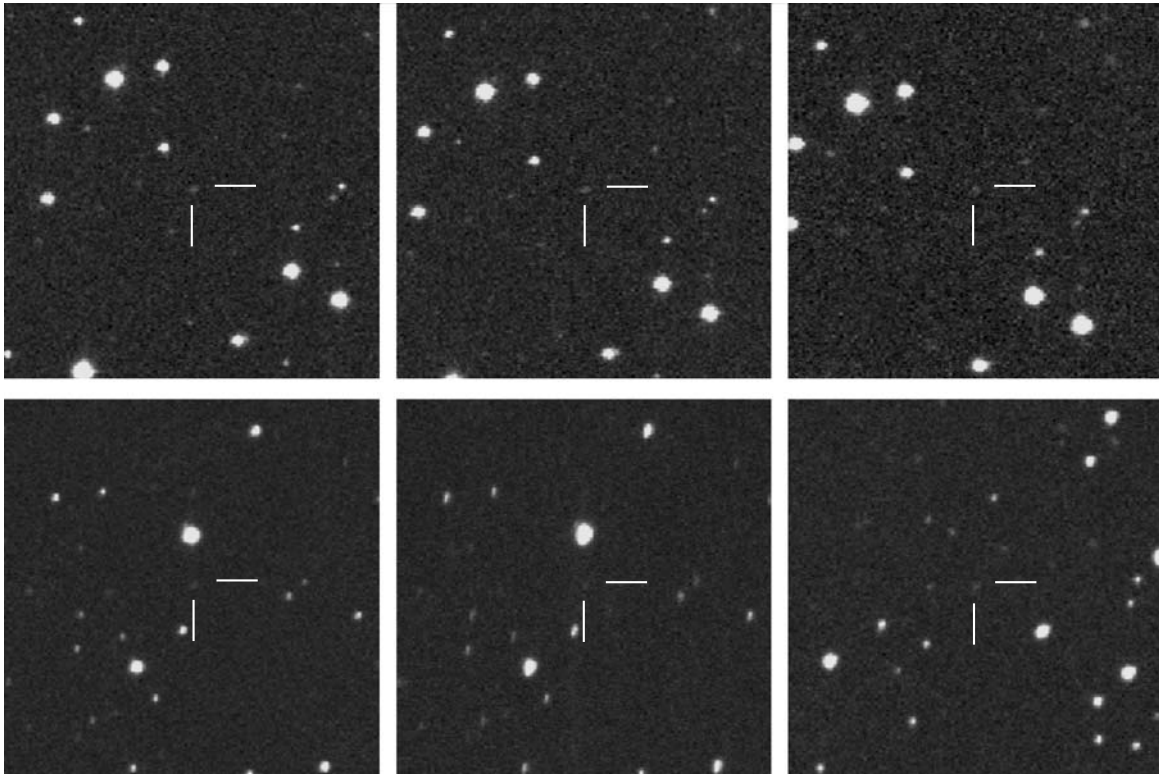
the brightness of the central star in the middle of the transit can be seen. According to the Exoplanet Transit Database, such an increase in brightness during transit has periodically been noted by other observers as well.

In the most recent publication concerning the WASP-33 exoplanet system, Kovács et al. [304] suggest that the increase in brightness just after the center of the transit can be explained by the presence of a large spot on the stellar surface, which is strongly inclined to the orbital plane of WASP-33b.

Understanding the nature of fine transit effects requires further observations; however, the good quality of currently available data already makes it possible to draw some conclusions about the physical origin of these effects with high probability. Note that some solar flares develop on similar time scales. Brightness variations could also be a result of eclipsing of spotted or facular fields by a planet. Work in this area is ongoing.

### 3.6. Observations of Small Bodies in the Solar System

**3.6.1. Discovery of asteroids 2011 OH26 and 2011 WR28.** On August 2, 2011, soon after the registration of the Kislovodsk MASTER observatory at the Minor Planet Center (MPC), the moving-object search system discovered a  $19^m$  asteroid candidate with coordinates  $21^h32^m09.01^s$  and  $+12^\circ34'20.2''$  moving with a mean velocity of  $-35''/\text{hr}$  in right ascension and  $18''/\text{hr}$  in declination. The FWHM of the object in various frames was from two to four pixels. Four objects were made of this object, listed in Table 16.



**Fig. 22.** Images of asteroid 2011 WR28. The upper row shows the first images from observations on November 20, 2011, and the lower row images obtained on November 21 and 22, 2011.

That same day, the search program identified another four asteroid candidates, which proved to be observations of this same object. Many observations overlapped each other. These five candidates were yielded by seven observations of the object. A telegram about these observations was sent to the MPC, suggesting this was a new discovery. The new object was confirmed by the F51 Observatory (Pan-STARRS survey) on August 3, 2011, based on a third of an observing night. The new asteroid was named 2011 OH26. This discovery made it possible to debug the required search programs and services. It was decided to automate all computations that had been carried out by hand during observations of the asteroid.

The search program identified another  $\approx 18.5^m$  asteroid candidate on November 20, 2011, moving with a velocity  $-38.536''/\text{hr}$  in right ascension and  $23.503''/\text{hr}$  in declination. Three observations of the object were made. Its FWHM was about five pixels. The next day, two more observations before November 21, 2011 were found using a linear search algorithm. A third set of images was obtained in November 22, 2011. About ten images were obtained in all, six of which are presented in Fig. 22. Based on these results, two telegrams were sent to the MPC. After observations had been obtained on three nights,

the MPC assigned the object the temporary name 2011 WR28.

All the MASTER observatories are now registered with the MPC. Observations of all real asteroids have been sent to the MPC automatically on a weekly basis since January 20, 2012. New asteroid candidates are found at the Kislovodsk and Tunka observatories on virtually every Moonless night.

Note that the MASTER network was not originally designed for asteroid searches. By virtue of the way in which the survey observations are conducted (two passes separated by 45 min), numerous observations of known asteroids are automatically obtained during normal sky-survey observations. However, because the firm identification of new asteroids requires a minimum of three observations of the same area, it is possible to discover new asteroids only in fields that have been re-observed more than twice in five to seven days, e.g., during alert observations, photometry of supernovae and blazars, and in the case of multiple observations of transient objects discovered by MASTER. Note also that the creation of a single network database makes it possible to increase the number of observations that can be considered (it enables working with observations from all observatories), thereby making it possible to increase the number of discovered objects.

**Table 17.** First observations of comet C/2012 A2 with the MASTER network

| Date             | $\alpha$   | $\delta$     | Magnitude | MASTER Observatory |
|------------------|--|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 2012-01-15.94094 | 12 <sup>h</sup> 53 <sup>m</sup> 13.01 <sup>s</sup> | 42°26'45.4'' | 17.4      | MASTER-Tunka       |
| 2012-01-15.97258 | 12 53 12.60  | 42 27 25.3   | 17.5      | Tunka              |
| 2012-01-16.68987 | 12 53 12.60  | 42 27 25.3   | 17.5      | Tunka              |
| 2012-01-16.63242 | 12 53 02.86  | 42 41 15.0   | (?)       | Blagoveshchensk    |
| 2012-01-16.65740 | 12 53 02.10  | 42 41 44.1   | (?)       | Blagoveshchensk    |
| 2012-01-16.67166 | 12 53 02.23  | 42 42 08.2   | 18.7      | Blagoveshchensk    |
| 2012-01-16.68635 | 12 53 01.86  | 42 42 27.7   | (?)       | Blagoveshchensk    |

**Table 18.** Observations of comet P/2010 H2 (Vales)

| Date          | $\alpha$   | $\delta$     | Magnitude*             | Observatory               |
|---------------|--|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2010-04-15.40 | —  | —            | $V > 20^m$             | Catalina Sky Survey       |
| 2010-04-15.63 | —  | —            | $C > 16^m$             | MASTER-Blagoveshchensk    |
| 2010-04-15.82 | 13 <sup>h</sup> 39 <sup>m</sup> 33.68 <sup>s</sup> | 04°45'41.4'' | $V = 13.7^m \pm 0.1^m$ | MASTER-Kislovodsk         |
| 2010-04-16.01 | 13 39 25.17  | 04 45 49.5   | $C = 12.6^m$           | Črni Vrh (Slovenia) [306] |

\*  $C$ —white light (clear).

### 3.7. Independent Discovery of the Comet C/2012 A2 (LINEAR)

The transient-search program discovered a comet-like object on January 15, 2012 [305]. At that time, the Tunka MASTER observatory, which made this discovery, had only just passed through the procedure for registration with the MPC, and the observations of this comet were accepted to the MPC with a delay of several days. This comet was discovered at other observatories slightly later, and it was these who have become the official discoverers of the comet. The first observations are presented in Table 17. A video recording of the observations can be found at the site [www.observ.pereplet.ru/images/possible\\_comet\\_2012a/comet.gif](http://www.observ.pereplet.ru/images/possible_comet_2012a/comet.gif).

**3.7.1. Observations of the Comet P/2010 H2 (Vales).** The Črni Vrh Observatory (Slovenia) detected a flare of comet P/2010 H2 on April 16, 2010. This same region was observed in an automated regime during MASTER and Catalina surveys. MASTER and Catalina observations on April 15, 2010 enable determination of the time when the comet flared with an accuracy to within several hours. The region containing the comet was observed by chance at 13:20 during a regular survey at the Blagoveshchensk observatory; the object was not detected on this frame, which had a limiting magnitude of  $16^m$ . The same region was observed in a regular survey regime by

the Kislovodsk MASTER telescope four hours later, at 19:44 UT; these frames showed a bright object slightly brighter than  $14^m$  in the  $V$  filter. These observations became the first observations of this flare in the world (Table 18).

## 4. CONCLUSION

Observations and transient searches using the MASTER telescope network are ongoing. It is planned to transform MASTER into a global network, and to begin regular observations of the Southern sky using observatories on the Canary Islands, Argentina, and in other countries. Work on the creation of a single MASTER database is being carried out at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute. This database will enable unified data analyses and searches for optical transients based on observations at all the network telescopes. All the tools required to search for and analyze optical transients, supernovae, asteroids, and variable stars based on both archival and new images will be collected in the database. An archive of images obtained by the MASTER telescopes since 2003 will be established, with each user being issued a personal password. An invitation is extended to all those interested in collaboration; requests for registration can be submitted at the site <http://master.sai.msu.ru/db/>.

TABLE OF OBSERVATIONS OF SUPERNOVAE WITH THE MASTER NETWORK

Statistics of images of supernovae obtained with the robotic telescopes of the MASTER network (January 2009–June 2011). If a supernova is present in frames preceding the moment of discovery, it is marked with an asterisk (\*). A detailed version of the table with data for each observation can be found at [http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/SN/sn\\_observations.html](http://master.sai.msu.ru/static/SN/sn_observations.html)

| No. | Name    | Magnitude | Date and time    | Number of frames | Date and time of first frame | Date and time of last frame |
|-----|---------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1   | 2009L   | 16.8      | 2009-01-13 12:58 | 8                | 2009-01-19 02:26             | 2009-01-23 02:34            |
| 2   | 2009av  | 18.6      | 2009-03-02 14:23 | 2                | 2009-05-19 18:45             | 2009-05-19 20:17            |
| 3   | 2009ay  | 16.4      | 2009-03-20 17:48 | 4                | 2009-05-02 19:50             | 2009-05-02 20:25            |
| 4   | 2009ba  | 18.4      | 2009-03-21 09:59 | 2                | 2009-04-13 18:33             | 2009-04-13 19:04            |
| 5   | 2009bf  | 17.8      | 2009-03-17 12:06 | 42               | 2009-04-10 20:36             | 2009-04-23 18:32            |
| 6   | 2009bn  | 18.9      | 2009-02-27 14:12 | 1                | 2009-04-13 21:54             | 2009-04-13 21:54            |
| 7   | 2009bo  | 18.9      | 2009-03-17 12:27 | 20               | 2009-04-13 20:40             | 2009-04-23 18:26            |
| 8   | 2009bp  | 17.6      | 2009-03-17 14:07 | 12               | 2009-04-10 22:42             | 2009-04-15 22:11            |
| 9   | 2009bv  | 18.1      | 2009-03-27 13:07 | 12               | 2009-04-11 21:01             | 2009-05-10 18:16            |
| 10  | 2009bz  | 16.8      | 2009-03-29 15:19 | 42               | 2009-04-10 23:32             | 2009-05-11 20:59            |
| 11  | 2009cr  | 18.0      | 2009-03-25 11:18 | 6                | 2009-04-10 20:11             | 2009-04-15 19:35            |
| 12  | 2009cz  | 17.9      | 2009-04-06 09:15 | 10               | 2009-04-09 17:52             | 2009-04-12 17:42            |
| 13  | 2009db  | 18.4      | 2009-03-19 14:21 | 6                | 2009-04-15 21:57             | 2009-04-21 21:02            |
| 14  | 2009dc  | 16.5      | 2009-04-09 15:51 | 57               | 2009-04-26 21:05             | 2009-05-19 19:34            |
| 15  | 2009dj  | 19.1      | 2009-03-24 13:58 | 9                | 2009-05-12 19:54             | 2009-05-12 20:58            |
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| 34  | 2009hi  | 18.0      | 2009-07-10 23:23 | 11               | 2009-08-18 19:54             | 2009-09-08 21:23            |
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| 78  | 2009ko  | 16.6      | 2009-10-28 08:02 | 21               | 2009-10-15 01:23             | 2009-12-16 22:50            |
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| 129 | 2010D   | 17.0      | 2010-01-10 10:31 | 11               | 2010-01-16 17:11             | 2010-02-22 15:28            |
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| 132 | 2010K   | 16.4      | 2010-01-08 12:02 | 54               | 2010-01-22 17:54             | 2010-02-25 23:09            |
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| 137 | 2010P   | 18.3      | 2010-01-18 11:28 | 21               | 2010-02-06 15:47             | 2010-03-10 00:35            |
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| 352 | 2011ac  | 17.7      | 2011-02-11 08:43 | 10               | 2011-02-28 12:46             | 2011-03-26 22:52            |
| 353 | 2011ad* | 19.0      | 2011-02-11 11:46 | 4                | 2011-01-29 21:56             | 2011-04-23 16:13            |
| 354 | 2011af  | 16.7      | 2011-01-11 02:25 | 7                | 2011-01-19 11:27             | 2011-01-26 14:08            |
| 355 | 2011ai  | 17.0      | 2011-02-24 14:29 | 4                | 2011-03-12 16:20             | 2011-05-07 15:19            |
| 356 | 2011aj  | 17.3      | 2011-02-18 16:50 | 4                | 2011-03-12 21:32             | 2011-05-05 19:22            |
| 357 | 2011ak  | 17.2      | 2011-02-09 12:00 | 14               | 2011-01-30 00:35             | 2011-04-27 14:49            |
| 358 | 2011al  | 18.7      | 2011-02-05 10:26 | 6                | 2011-01-27 18:03             | 2011-04-01 13:34            |
| 359 | 2011ao  | 17.1      | 2011-03-03 11:53 | 7                | 2011-03-14 15:17             | 2011-05-23 16:40            |
| 360 | 2011aq  | 18.0      | 2011-01-24 02:42 | 1                | 2011-02-26 13:10             | 2011-02-26 13:10            |
| 361 | 2011au  | 19.0      | 2011-03-05 09:33 | 1                | 2011-03-30 20:24             | 2011-03-30 20:24            |
| 362 | 2011av  | 17.6      | 2011-03-08 13:36 | 6                | 2011-03-14 16:21             | 2011-04-25 17:21            |
| 363 | 2011ax  | 18.3      | 2011-03-10 07:36 | 2                | 2011-03-04 11:35             | 2011-04-19 16:10            |
| 364 | 2011ay  | 17.7      | 2011-03-18 07:02 | 4                | 2011-03-04 10:35             | 2011-03-08 12:24            |
| 365 | 2011az* | 16.2      | 2011-03-18 12:53 | 9                | 2011-03-14 15:34             | 2011-05-07 13:36            |
| 366 | 2011bc  | 17.3      | 2011-04-01 12:04 | 9                | 2011-03-27 15:36             | 2011-05-19 14:09            |
| 367 | 2011bd  | 16.0      | 2011-03-24 17:47 | 7                | 2011-05-11 14:16             | 2011-05-15 18:23            |
| 368 | 2011be  | 17.7      | 2011-03-25 09:22 | 3                | 2011-04-20 14:06             | 2011-05-13 15:06            |
| 369 | 2011bg  | 16.7      | 2011-03-26 11:56 | 12               | 2011-03-14 15:06             | 2011-05-14 15:08            |
| 370 | 2011bh  | 17.5      | 2011-03-29 07:45 | 1                | 2011-03-25 14:13             | 2011-03-25 14:13            |
| 371 | 2011bi  | 17.1      | 2011-04-04 17:10 | 2                | 2011-03-31 20:16             | 2011-03-31 20:24            |
| 372 | 2011bk* | 15.8      | 2011-03-07 16:20 | 8                | 2011-03-01 21:06             | 2011-04-27 16:59            |
| 373 | 2011bl  | 16.9      | 2011-04-05 13:34 | 6                | 2011-04-05 17:40             | 2011-05-18 17:08            |
| 374 | 2011bm  | 17.0      | 2011-04-04 12:56 | 5                | 2011-04-14 15:33             | 2011-05-03 13:51            |
| 375 | 2011bn  | 18.9      | 2011-03-08 16:16 | 2                | 2011-05-23 16:05             | 2011-05-23 16:52            |
| 376 | 2011bp  | 18.2      | 2011-04-06 11:12 | 2                | 2011-04-21 17:24             | 2011-04-21 18:18            |
| 377 | 2011bq  | 17.9      | 2011-04-15 18:29 | 2                | 2011-04-09 20:15             | 2011-04-09 21:05            |
| 378 | 2011br  | 18.2      | 2011-04-09 15:06 | 4                | 2011-03-27 12:44             | 2011-04-17 19:00            |
| 379 | 2011bs  | 18.5      | 2011-03-27 14:36 | 2                | 2011-03-21 19:42             | 2011-05-11 16:45            |
| 380 | 2011bt* | 19.2      | 2011-03-28 12:52 | 8                | 2011-03-23 16:06             | 2011-05-01 17:23            |
| 381 | 2011by  | 14.2      | 2011-04-26 11:55 | 25               | 2011-04-13 13:42             | 2011-05-24 13:34            |
| 382 | 2011bz  | 17.4      | 2011-04-24 14:04 | 12               | 2011-05-22 19:52             | 2011-05-22 22:30            |
| 383 | 2011ca  | 17.2      | 2011-04-26 12:31 | 1                | 2011-05-05 15:25             | 2011-05-05 15:25            |
| 384 | 2011cc  | 17.7      | 2011-03-17 16:33 | 2                | 2011-04-26 19:13             | 2011-04-26 20:00            |
| 385 | 2011cg  | 15.7      | 2011-04-14 14:59 | 44               | 2011-04-26 19:45             | 2011-05-25 00:02            |
| 386 | 2011ch  | 16.1      | 2011-04-27 13:02 | 27               | 2011-05-13 14:25             | 2011-05-25 00:05            |
| 387 | 2011ck* | 15.9      | 2011-05-12 14:00 | 1                | 2011-05-05 17:12             | 2011-05-05 17:12            |

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